

## A Van-Tastic Story About Bold Missions

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — A willingness to drive long hours and lots of stamina have enabled a group of seminary students to be pioneers for Bold Mission Thrust, the Southern Baptist Convention's effort to proclaim the message of Christ to all the world by the year 2000.

The seminarians, who spend their weekends in Michigan, helping plant churches and nurture missions, are students through the week at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. In between, they have seven long hours of driving each way with brief stops at gas stations and coffee shops.

Five members of the group use a van provided by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. The Michigan Baptist Convention provides gasoline, and the seminary provides honorariums.

"The church may be small, but every member is aware of his im-

portance to the church. I think there is a greater feeling of being part of the body of Christ there than in most churches," says Ernie Moulton who serves in Grand Haven. He is pastor of the 50-member Peach Plains Baptist Church.

Joanne LeGette, the only woman in the commuting group, was a summer missionary with the Home Mission Board in Port Huron, Mich., and is able to continue her work through this special program. In the summer she helped start a mission, which held its first worship service July 24 under a tree in the yard of one of the member's homes. It is now meet in a school, with an average attendance of 11 to 16.

She feels her work is rewarding because, "I know I have been called to a certain area and I'm doing what God has given me to do. And I see needs that I can help provide for."

## Released Cuban Pastor Arrives In United States

By Judy Touchton

ATLANTA (BP) — A Baptist pastor imprisoned in Cuba for 12 years has joined his family in Marietta, Ga., just north of Atlanta.

Benjamin Valdez arrived here Nov. 3, from Madrid, Spain, where he lived since August awaiting permission to enter the United States.

The 48-year-old Valdez is one of about 50 Baptist pastors imprisoned during the revolutionary takeover by Fidel Castro in 1965. Others imprisoned were Southern Baptist Home

Mission Board missionaries Herbert Caudill, released in 1966, and David Fite, released in 1968.

Valdez' wife Carmen and their two sons and two daughters, who came to the U.S. in 1968, met at the Atlanta airport. Valdez also had seen his wife when she flew to Madrid in August.

The Home Mission Board and First Baptist Church, Marietta, Ga., helped pay Valdez' way to the U.S., just as they helped his family move here nine years ago, and have since helped them financially.

Valdez' release leaves only one of the original group of arrested Cuban Baptist pastors still imprisoned. That pastor is on a week-release program and may apply to leave the country, Jan. 1, 1978.

The charges on which Valdez was found guilty, in what he called a "revolutionary trial," were for trafficking in exchange of currency and helping a fugitive out of the country.

Valdez admits assisting more than one fugitive leave Cuba, including his own brother. "Would I have changed my actions to help my brother and others?" he asked. "Now, with the experience I have had, I know it was not worth it."

Yet, he refused special "re-education programs" that might have permitted him early release. "I was sentenced to 12 years. I felt I should serve my entire term. It helped me fulfill my duties to myself."

His ambition in the U.S. is to "preach; to work as a pastor of a church." He has, however, no immediate plans.

## Quoted

Bank on it: "I would like to see an idea bank or depository for creative ideas in ministry, gleaned from research and from people involved in ministry how to more effectively reach people for Jesus Christ," said Russell Dilday, newly-elected president of Southwestern Seminary to trustees of the seminary.

Dilday also expressed concern for stronger placement assistance provided to the seminary's graduates. "We have more people preparing for ministry than in the history of the world and yet there is a world filled with people crying for Jesus Christ. We must have a better way to bring together these graduates and the opportunities."

## Brotherhood Lines Out Mission Ministry Needs

A Mission Awareness Conference will take place Jan. 5, in Jackson at the Baptist Building, 515 Mississippi St.

Purpose of the conference is to acquaint church staff and lay ministry coordinators with home and foreign mission volunteer needs.

Sponsored by the state Brotherhood Department, the conference will include specific needs information on foreign mission, home mission, and in-state mission needs.

Eugene Grubbs, of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board will detail mission ministry needs on the foreign mission field. Don Hammonds of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board will explain needs on the home mission field. And Paul Harrell of the Brotherhood Department will describe opportunities for mission service within the state of Mississippi.

Conferees will be offered opportunities to respond immediately to the needs or to take all the information back to their respective churches for discussion.

The meeting begins at 1:30 p. m. on Jan. 5, and will last approximately two hours. Earlier that morning, associational directors of missions will be briefed on the mission ministry needs

in the state and will offer their own listing of needs within their own association.

## November CP Is Second Best Month So Far

Cooperative Program gifts for November through the office of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board amounted to \$779,663, making it the second largest month in income during 1977.

The largest month, which was also the record month for Cooperative Program gifts, was August and only \$4,168 more at \$783,831.

The income for November of this year was \$93,475 more than for the same period of last year for an increase of 13.6 per cent.

Total Cooperative Program gifts for 1977 have amounted to \$7,212,550, according to an announcement from the office of Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. This is a 9.6 per cent increase over the gifts for the same period of 1976. The 1977 total for the first 11 months was \$487,450 below the pro rata portion of the budget for 11 months, however.

Missionary Union (WMU) enrollment, and Brotherhood enrollment.

Church membership is expected to show a net increase of 142,149 or 1.1

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## Evangelism Conference Fields Various Experts

DEC. 19 1977

The 1978 state Evangelism Conference will take place at First Baptist Church, Gulfport, on Feb. 6-8.

Guest speakers for the event includes Home Mission Board evangelism strategist Frank Crumpler, Texas pastor and past HMB evangelism director, Ken Chafin, and editor-at-large for World Vision magazine, Paul Rees.

Also included as a speaker for the conference is Jerry Clower, an entertainer from Yazoo City who includes spiritual truths in his talks.

Chafin, who will deliver messages during the first two days of the conference, is pastor of South Main Baptist Church in Houston, Tex. Prior to his HMB post, he served as a professor at both Southwestern and Southern seminaries.

Crumpler is presently serving as director of evangelism planning and consultation on the evangelism staff of the HMB. Before this he was secretary of evangelism for Virginia Baptists. He will speak during the second day of the conference.

Rees, author of "Don't Sleep

Through The Revolution" and "Men of Action in the Book of Acts," will serve as Bible teacher throughout the evangelism conference. He holds five honorary doctorates and is a board member of Asbury Seminary, Broad for the World, and Christianity Today.

Clower, a Baptist layman from Yazoo City, will speak on the second evening of the conference which begins at 6:45 p.m., Feb. 6, and concludes at 11:40 a.m., on the 8th. Clower is author of "Ain't God Good."



Clower



Chafin

## Oklahoma Baptists To Divest Hospital

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP) — Baptist Medical Center here will be transferred without charge from ownership and operation by the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma to a non-profit, nonstock corporation composed primarily of Baptist laymen.

The Oklahoma convention's board of directors moved to divest themselves of the hospital at a meeting Dec. 6. Transfer procedures may take up to five months.

The recent conflict between the hospital's directors, Oklahoma Baptists and members of the hospital staff over the order by the Oklahoma Baptist board to stop gender dysphoria procedures (sex change operations) was not specifically stated as a reason for dropping hospital ownership.

The directors did pass a resolution stating that continued operation of the hospital by Oklahoma Baptists has become "impractical" because of continuing and increasing encroachments "by the federal government and other entities" on the convention's ability to exercise operational controls over the hospital.

The 50-member corporation that will take over operation of the hospital is composed of 30 Baptists and 20 non-Baptists and will be known as Baptist Medical Center of Oklahoma, Inc.

The name Baptist will remain with the 500-bed facility as long as three conditions are met: 1. At least 60 percent of the members and directors of the corporation are members of churches cooperating with the state Baptist convention and are approved by Oklahoma Baptists; 2. The Baptist chaplaincy program presently in ef-

fect at the hospital must be continued in all significant aspects; 3. No gender dysphoria surgery or abortions on demand may be performed at the hospital.

## MC Law School Appeals Ruling

The Mississippi College School of Law has been advised that an American Bar Association committee will not recommend that the school receive accreditation, according to Mary Libby Payne, dean of the school.

School officials immediately announced plans to appeal the recommendation, and Mrs. Payne was in Florida this past week end to present the Mississippi College case to a higher body. An additional opportunity for appeal will be open in February if the first attempt fails, and a new application for accreditation can be filed in 10 months if both appeals should be unsuccessful.

The problems seemed to be in the student-teacher ratio and in financial assets. It was pointed out, however, that between the time Mississippi College agreed to take over the Jackson School of Law and the time the students transferred, an inordinate number of freshman students were admitted to the Jackson school.

(NOTE: At press time the Baptist Record learned the Florida appeal was unsuccessful.)



Cuban Pastor Benjamin Valdez rejoices with his family at Atlanta airport after his arrival in the U.S. after 12 years in a Cuban prison and several months in Madrid, Spain, awaiting permission to enter the U.S. (BP photo by Paul Obrégon)

## Minister Was Target For "Manipulation"

By Barry Garrett  
And Robert O'Brien

ATLANTA (BP) — William L. Self, a Southern Baptist minister listed by a secret Korean Central Intelligence Agency (KCIA) document as a candidate for possible "manipulation," said he finds the listing "curious" and welcomes the chance to discuss it openly.

Self, pastor of Atlanta's Wieuca Road Baptist Church, said he traveled to South Korea, Feb. 15-25, 1975, as a guest of that government because the visit "represented to me a unique opportunity to witness for my faith in Jesus Christ to a foreign head of state. No Christian should ever pass up that chance." Self said he went as a pastor, "not in any official capacity from my government or my denomination."

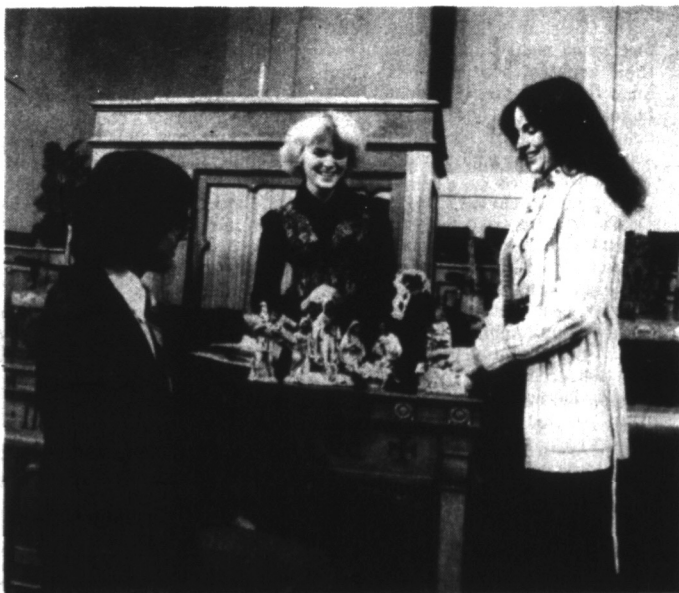
The visit came after it was recommended by Korean evangelist Billy Kim, who had led an evangelistic crusade at Wieuca Road Baptist Church in Nov., 1974. The trip, at the invitation of the South Korean prime minister, included an audience with Korean President Park Chung Hee. The Korean leaders wanted Self to

come to their country to assess widespread charges that religious oppression existed there.

The KCIA document, recently released by the House Subcommittee on International Organization, proposed a "1976 Plan for Operation in the United States" which involved "manipulation" of numerous religious leaders, Congress, the White House, the Penta-

(Continued on page 2)

## There's No Difference Between "Night" And "Day" For Students



NASHVILLE — "Reach Out to Serve," the theme for 1977 Student Day at Christmas, is designed to emphasize the denominational emphasis. "Let the Church Reach Out." Churches are encouraged to use the seasonal event to recognize students in the home community, as well as those students who have been away at college.

NASHVILLE — Student Day at Christmas, an annual emphasis for churches to recognize students and focus on Southern Baptist student ministries, is the outgrowth of a 50-year-old tradition.

When student work first began in the mid-1920s, Frank H. Leavell, the first secretary of the Student Department (now National Student Ministries) of the Baptist Sunday School Board, began to promote the observance of Student Night after various churches started sponsoring the event.

Originally scheduled the last Sunday night of the year, Student Night gave churches an opportunity to reach out to students living in their communities, as well as to recognize those students who were away at College.

Scheduling problems prompted a change in the early 1970s from Student Night to Student Day at Christmas. The name change was accompanied by a suggestion that the event be observed any time in December that students are home for Christmas holidays.

In 1977 churches are encouraged to observe Student Day at Christmas on a Wednesday night or a Sunday, especially (Continued on page 2)

## Projections Indicate SBC Will Exceed 13 Million

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) church membership will top the 13 million mark during the 1976-77 church year, according to preliminary estimates compiled by the research services department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Projected increases also were recorded in mission expenditures, total receipts and church music enrollment.

Decreases are projected this year in baptisms, Sunday School enrollment, church training enrollment, Woman's

Missionary Union (WMU) enrollment, and Brotherhood enrollment.

Church membership is expected to show a net increase of 142,149 or 1.1

### Baptisms Expected To Drop 11 Percent

percent. This would bring the projected total number of Southern Baptist church members to 13,064,754.

Mission expenditures and total receipts from churches will continue to

show the pattern of substantial increases they have shown for the past few years. This year total receipts will go over \$1.797 billion, a 9.2 percent increase representing gain of \$151,428,305. Mission expenditures are expected to rise 11.1 percent to \$291,497,317.

Ongoing church music enrollment was up .5 percent, or 6,863, to a total of 1,379,461.

Baptisms are expected to drop by 11 percent, or 42,295, from last year's total, to 342,201 during the 1976-77 year.

Sunday School enrollment is projected to decrease by .5 percent this year, a drop of 37,292 to a total enrollment of 7,421,083. Last year Sunday School recorded a gain of 176,843, the largest increase in 17 years and the fifth straight year for an increase.

Projections this year show that church training enrollment is expected to decrease by 4.3 percent, or 79,562, to a total enrollment of 1,770,839. Figures are not available for the number of people involved in New Member Training, Church Leader

Training and short-term member training projects.

Brotherhood ongoing enrollment is projected to drop this year by 1.2 per-

### Mission expenditures Rise 11 Percent

cent, or 5,748, to a total of \$73,233. Figures are not available for additional persons involved in short-term mission projects.

WMU is expected to experience a 1.7

percent decrease, according to the church reports. The projected loss of 19,364 would bring that total to 1,119,670.

The final official report will be released in February 1978, according to Martin B. Bradley, manager of the Sunday School Board's research services department. The projection figures are based on reports received from more than 26,200 Southern Baptist churches. Approximately 35,000 churches will contribute to the final report.



# Christian Colleges Know Their Purpose; Set About Doing It

By Joe Tuten, Chairman  
Education Commission  
Mississippi Baptist Convention

Mississippi Baptists are strongly involved in Christian higher education. We are involved out of conviction. We know that anyone who ponders seriously his Baptist faith will realize sooner or later that evangelism, missions and education are essential elements of his commitment to Jesus Christ.

Mississippi Baptists know, also, that the earliest institutions of higher education in this country were born in the hearts of evangelical Christians. The Congregational Church established Harvard in 1636. The Episcopal Church founded William and Mary in 1693. The Presbyterians established Princeton in 1754. The Baptists established Brown College in 1765. These early American evangelical Christians certainly believed Christian higher education was important. We see this even more clearly when we remember that all colleges founded prior to the American revolution were founded by evangelical Christians. Most of the great public colleges and universities so well known to us today did not even exist until after the Land Grant Act of 1862. Community colleges came into existence in this century as a part of the urban movement — three hundred years after the first private, church-related college.

Mississippi Baptists themselves have been actively involved in Christian higher education now for 127 years. We did not found our colleges; we adopted each of them. Our Baptist forefathers here in this state adopted Mississippi College in 1850, after the Methodists, Presbyterians and the State Legislature had given up on it. Then, sixty years later, in a period characterized by the optimism of Teddy Roosevelt and the idealism of Woodrow Wilson, Mississippi Baptists adopted three other colleges within a short span of eight years. They adopted William Carey College in 1911, Clarke College in 1914 and Blue Mountain College in 1919.

Whatever else may be said about our Baptist forefathers, they believed in Christian higher education. They perceived its importance in advancing the knowledge of the Lord. Mississippi Baptists, still, are strongly committed to supporting and advancing Christian higher education. We do so because we desire to gain the wisdom of our Baptist forefathers who, often under discouraging conditions, repeatedly took bold steps in behalf of Christian higher education. We do so because of our theology, especially because of our belief in the competency of every soul before God and all that this implies. We do so because of our conviction that education is the handmaiden of our great missionary work. We do so because we realize that God's most powerful servants in Biblical times were educated men.

Moses was educated and trained as the young prince of Egypt. Isaiah probably was of royal lineage and had access to the best education that Jerusalem offered. Paul studied at the feet of the most renowned Jewish scholar of the first century, Gamaliel. All of these men were unusually powerful servants of God. Each of these men was well educated. Baptists know they would make a tragic mistake if they failed to place a high premium upon Christian education.

**A Day of Great Opportunity**  
It is never enough to look to the past. We live now. Our greatest responsibility, and our most wonderful opportunity, is to serve God in our generation. We must seize the opportunities which time brings to us. We, in our day, must press toward the mark for the prize of our own "high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14).

I believe Christian colleges right now may be on the threshold of their greatest opportunity in at least half a century. This is true because of the nature of our Christian colleges and because of the peculiar problems which our public colleges and universities are facing.

Let me speak first about two of the major problems of our public colleges and universities.

A very major problem with which public colleges and universities in this country are grappling is centralization and the resultant loss of freedom. Historically, the colleges in this country have had each their own governing boards. They have been able to do their own planning and develop their own curricula. This has been true of the state colleges as well as the private colleges. This has changed.

For the last few years, there has been a strong trend toward centralized state systems for the public colleges. The operation of public colleges has moved from the campus to the capitol. Inflation and uniformity have been the twin catalysts in this trend. Pressures have come from the governors and legislatures on one hand and from the federal government and courts on the other. As a result the public colleges are swiftly and surely losing some of their historic freedom in planning their curricula and developing new programs.

This priceless freedom, which is an inherent ingredient of our private,

church-related colleges, is beginning to stand out more prominently against this public college trend toward centralization. Your Education Commission has recognized the significance of this freedom for the well being of the institutions of higher education which are sponsored by this Convention. We have consciously safeguarded the freedom of our four colleges.

We have encouraged each to work under the policy guidance of their own separate Board of Trustees, who are elected by this Convention. We have encouraged each of our colleges to be innovative and develop new programs and curricula in acting redemptively toward the changing problems of our changing society. Freedom and diversity have had much to do with the strong and effective ministry of our four colleges.

## Lack of Moral Purpose

A second major problem of the public colleges and universities, and a much more serious one, is their own avowed lack of moral purpose.

For at least four decades now, they have been preoccupied with the German ideal of research and specialization. Many of these public schools of higher education, going all the way back to World War II, have entered into one lucrative research contract after another with the federal government. The shameful phrase "value-free research" became the academic motto of the times. This German ideal of research and specialization, this bedfellows relationship between the federal government and the public universities — it all reached its zenith in the John Kennedy years when science and technology put ships in space and men on the moon. The most widely acknowledged spokesmen, the nationally recognized leaders in public education, boldly disclaimed any responsibility for teaching values. The real function of higher education, they said, and they said it clearly and unmistakably through faculty assignment and recognition, was to engage in "value-free research."

Then something happened in this country. A long war in Vietnam. The explosion of Watergate. A President resigned. Scores of political leaders went to jail. A government came near collapse. Jimmy Hoffa mysteriously disappeared. The Chairman of the Board of Directors of one of our largest corporations was fired because of international bribery. We witnessed the moral rot about which America's preachers has prophesied for decades now spewing forth from the very vitals of our country. America began searching for its soul. Roots became more than a television series. The young people began crying out for moral values.

Almost suddenly this matter of values became the most important issue in our country. But public higher education had washed its hands of any responsibility for moral values.

Where does this leave higher education? For four decades, at least, public higher education has been growing giant size on its own diet of moral detachment. Having repeatedly justified itself as an economic tool for the good of society, public higher education now finds itself dealing with a constituency who are no longer convinced that bigger equals better and that more means happier.

The Christian colleges today, therefore, stand in a position to make one of their greatest contributions. They know their purpose; they do not have to search for it. They need only the courage to openly recommit themselves to their purpose and to wear their labels proudly.

If you could hear the Presidents and Deans of our Baptist colleges speaking in southside sessions to their own professional peers, your very soul would swell with pride and thanksgiving to God for these men who are investing their lives in Christian higher education. You would understand why our Christian colleges are spoken of as our last best hope of evangelical Christianity.

## The McGrath Study

I must not close without telling you something about the McGrath study. Dr. Ben Fisher, Executive Secretary of our Southern Baptist Education Commission in Nashville, planned a national colloquium on Baptist higher education in June 1976. It was held at William and Mary College in Williamsburg immediately before the meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Norfolk. Trustees, presidents, deans and other representatives of our Southern Baptist colleges, seminaries and schools attended this colloquium which lasted almost a week. Much attention was given to this important matter of values in higher education. As a result of this colloquium, the Lilly Foundation in Indianapolis, Indiana became interested in why our Southern Baptist colleges were doing so well at the very time when many of the largest and most prestigious colleges of the nation were having great difficulty. Consequently, and with the encouragement of Dr. Fisher, the Lilly Foundation appropriated \$100,000 for a major study of Southern Baptist educational institutions. Dr. Earl J. McGrath, a long-time educator of great professional stature, and a former U. S. Commissioner of Education, was chosen to make this study. Dr. McGrath assembled a staff, and the study was made through a research unit at the University of Arizona. The financial analyses were made by John Minter Associates of Boulder, Colorado.

Forty-nine of our fifty-three Southern Baptist schools participated in the study. All four of our Baptist colleges in Mississippi were included in the study and benefited from it. In fact, we have asked Dr. McGrath, through a further research grant from Lilly Foundation, to do a follow-up study of our Mississippi Baptist Colleges. There is some assurance that this may be done.

You will be hearing more, I am sure, about the McGrath study. I would like to read you two or three statements from this study. Remember, this is the opinion of outsiders about our Baptist Colleges. "As a group, they have maintained the strongest church and

denominational ties of any body of schools in the nation. This has to be a major factor in their general good health in the educational sphere." And, again, "While many Southern Baptist colleges continue to serve local and regional needs of their constituencies... it seems reasonable to suppose that their Christian purposes, if advertised broadly, could have drawing power far beyond their denomination, state or region."

Listen to this: "Our nation is hungry for moral, ethical, spiritual meanings. Our educational institutions have been criticized by the general public for not giving the people more help in solving these dilemmas. They want the kind of education — the kind that stresses values as well as knowledge — which your Baptist schools are clearly giving."

And one last statement that may have a strong suggestion to us right now in our denomination's bold missions challenge: "One of the major current issues confronting Southern Baptist churches may well be the degree to which they wish to utilize their colleges and universities as national and international resources for evangelical mission."

My fellow Mississippi Baptists, after serving six years as a member of the Education Commission, I gladly tell you that I am proud of our Baptist colleges. I am proud and thankful for the President of each one of our colleges. I am thankful, very thankful, for the way our colleges are actively undergirding our churches and helping us do what we are trying to do in the cause of Christ.

Our Christian colleges, I believe, have one of their greatest opportunities. My concern is that we may not realize this, and time may pass us by. Opportunity seldom knocks twice, they say. I do know we are living in a fast-breaking, impatient world. Even opportunity does not wait long anymore. Our Baptist colleges here in Mississippi must not wait. We who believe in them must not let them wait. We must energize them with our prayers, our money, our sons and daughters. We must strengthen them with repeated assurances of love and confidence.



## Mission Weekend At FBC, Jackson

Bill and Terri Peacock, missionaries to Taejon, Korea, dressed as Koreans for the world mission weekend held at FBC, Jackson. The weekend featured 15 foreign missionaries who spoke to members of FBC in rooms decorated to reflect life in their mission country. The weekend opened with a dinner and ham radio transmissions from South America. It ended with 35 members affirming their commitment to some kind of special Christian service.

## Brotherhood Unveils Wide Range Of Projects

MEMPHIS (BP) — Unveiling a wide range of proposed new projects to involve more men and boys in the denomination's "Bold Mission" effort, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Brotherhood Commission approved a list of more than 250 goals, objectives and specific plans for 1978-79.

Meeting in semi-annual session here, trustees of the Brotherhood Commission also voted to request \$800,000 from the SBC's national Cooperative Program budget in 1978-79 to finance the projects as a part of a proposed projected budget of \$2.4 million. The Cooperative Program allocation must be approved by the SBC Executive Committee before recommendation to the convention in Atlanta next June.

As a part of the budget proposal, the list of 250 objectives, goals and action plans for 1978-79 called for a wide range of projects to support the SBC's Bold Mission Thrust effort to proclaim the message of Christ to all the world by the year 2000.

Included were such proposals as: Help involve 50,000 volunteers in mission projects in their state, nation, and overseas; enlist 750 volunteers and 750 sponsors in the new Mission Service Corps program devised by the convention to recruit 5,000 volunteer missionaries by 1982; conduct Cooperative Program prayer breakfasts for 400 Baptist associations to help double Cooperative Program gifts by 1982; complete development of a comprehensive mission education

strategy with Woman's Missionary Union, Home Mission Board, and Sunday School Board.

Re-elected officers of the commission were William Hardy of Columbus, Miss., chairman; Everett LeMay of Mt. Vernon, Ill., vice chairman; Ernie Castro, Wichita, Kan., recording secretary; and Glendon McCullough, executive director of the commission, as treasurer.

## November CP Is Second Best

(Continued from page 1)

"We stepped out a long way in determining the 1977 budget," Kelly said. "In spite of the fact that we are not up to the budget goal for this time of the year, we are substantially ahead of the same period for last year. This speaks of a determination on the part of Mississippi Baptists to continue to make missions giving a priority even though they might not be able to continue on the course that had been projected. This indicates that priorities have been correctly arranged."

The Convention Board will be able to accept churches' gifts to the 1977 Cooperative Program until Dec. 29. Funds received after that date will be credited to the 1978 account.

## Minister Was Target

(Continued from page 1)

gon, the media and the academic community. The KCIA, which apparently never got the plan fully launched, plotted infiltration to strengthen "the execution of the U. S. security commitment to the ROK (Republic of Korea) and ROK-U.S. ties."

The House committee deleted names from the released document because the investigation is in progress, but Self openly declared he has been contacted by the committee and told the KCIA document lists his name. He said the committee asked for an interview, "which I welcome wholeheartedly because I have nothing to hide."

"I do not know at this point what some of their (the South Koreans) intentions were," he said in a telephone interview with Baptist Press, "but mine were and are clear. Perhaps I'm naive in international, worldly politics, but it represented to me a most unique opportunity to witness for my faith in Jesus Christ to a foreign head of state."

Self said he has a natural inclination toward internationalism because the Atlanta Korean Church uses Wieuca Road Church's facilities and because his church has a longstanding ministry to internationals in Atlanta through language and citizenship classes.

He said that during the 1975 visit, he and Korean officials "exchanged customary gifts, not money; ideas, not contracts, and the chance to explore truths, not intrigue." He said the visit included "a routine public relations visit to the KCIA headquarters, the chief of naval operations and others — all with the knowledge of the U. S. embassy."

But he said no one attempted to bribe or improperly influence him, either in Korea or since his return to the States.

He did note that he has written some letters to U. S. senators and representatives urging retention of U. S. troops in Korea and that Kim preached one Sunday evening sermon at his church and introduced him to various Korean dignitaries during Kim's 1976 visits to the U. S.

"But no one has attempted to get me to do anything improper," declared Self. "Billy Kim wanted me to support troop retention, but I wrote the letters because I, along with the Pentagon, happen to believe we should keep troops there. It would be unthinkable to sell my integrity for an overseas trips."

When he returned from Korea, Self said in a 1975 interview that he found that Christians are free to preach and evangelize in South Korea, as long as they refrain from overt acts of political interference that might upset "the delicate balance of power" there.

During his 1975 interview with President Park, Self, a trustee of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Foreign Mission Board, said he told Park that SBC missionaries are instructed to conduct spiritual ministries to persons, not become involved in the politics of the country. Self became president of the board's trustees in 1977.

The objectives of the "1976 plan," as stated in the KCIA document, were to thwart North Korean control and influence in America, strengthen U. S. commitment to South Korea and disrupt North Korea's infiltration of Korean residents in the U. S.

The document outlined "operational guidelines" to achieve the objectives. They included efforts to "organize forces supporting the ROK in all circles in the U. S. and transform anti-ROK public opinion."

## Student Day

(Continued from page 1)

cially the last Sunday of December, which is Christmas Day.

Just as Student Night became known as Student Day at Christmas, so has student work grown to encompass more than 1,071 student ministries on campuses across the country. Work is now being conducted in 33 state Baptist conventions and two state fellowships. Baptist Student Union-sponsored student missionaries serve in all 50 states and as many countries around the world.

## Newsbriefs In The World Of Religion

**Fort Worth (BP)** — Trustees of Southwestern Seminary accepted a recommendation to name Charles Tidwell to fill a newly created Chair of Denominational Relations. The chair, to be underwritten by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board for each of the six Southern Baptist seminaries, will interpret the board's extension facilities, programs, literature and services. Tidwell, a professor of church administration, has served on the Southwestern Seminary faculty since 1965.

**Edinburgh** — The Baptist Union of Scotland set a church growth goal of 50 per cent over the next three years.

Delegates warmly endorsed the scheme as part of a document with regard to forward planning of Denominational life and aiming toward growth of membership and churches, while meeting here in annual Assembly in late October. The plan will include beginning one new pioneer ministry annually as well as Christian Education projects; ministries to special groups such as alcoholics, homeless youth and the elderly; and ministries in special areas of need such as rural situations and areas of social deprivation.

**Johore Bharu, Malaysia (BP)** — The secretary for the Baptist theological seminary, Penang, Malaysia, was among 100 passengers killed in the crash of a hijacked plane here Dec. 4. She was Mrs. Tung Yu Lin, wife of a Christian minister, who had been secretary to the president of the seminary for more than 16 years, according to Southern Baptist missionary John L. Deal. Her reason for being on the Malaysian flight was not immediately known here. Investigators are trying to determine if hijackers were responsible for the crash.

**Plains, Ga. (BP)** — Donald Wilson, pastor of the Vine Run Baptist Church, Folsom, Ky. for three years, has been called as pastor of Plains Baptist Church here, the hometown church of President Jimmy Carter. A 1977 graduate of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., Wilson was to preach his first sermon at the church December 4.

**Beirut (EBPS)** — Some 60 people witnessed the baptism of six young persons into the fellowship of the Monsouriyeh Baptist Church here recently. Several attending has never seen a baptism. Among those baptized were two young men who had been involved in the fighting of last year's civil war.

**New York (RNS)** — In its 25 years of existence, the Revised Standard Version (RSV) of the Bible has become the only totally ecumenical version of the Scripture — widely used by all three branches of Christendom.

**Bandung** — The Indonesian translation of the Living New Testament Paraphrased has sold 45,000 copies during its first 14 months since publication. Largely a work of Baptist deacon Ganda Wargatena, assisted by Margaret Gunawan, an Indonesian laywoman, the translation was released in July 1976.

**Charlotte, N. C. (RNS)** — Rejecting an opinion of North Carolina's attorney general that the PTL Television Network does not qualify for tax-exempt status as a religious organization, the Mecklenburg County Board of Equalization and Review ruled that the Charlotte-based broadcast ministry does, in fact, meet state requirements as a religious organization and is exempt from local taxes.

## Taxation

**ALBANY, N. Y. (RNS)** — New York State has barred property tax exemptions that were granted to "mail order" ministers of the Universal Life Church, directing that their properties be placed on the tax rolls immediately.

A spokesman for the state Board of Equalization and Assessment said the decision marked the first time in the board's 28-year history that such an order had been issued. The order was sent to four tax assessors who had granted religious tax exemptions.

Robert Kerwick, one of the assessors served with the directive, said he will ignore the order. "I don't care what order I get," he maintained.

Kerwick, town assessor for Hardenburgh, N. Y., filed a tax roll in July granting tax exemption to 90 percent of the town's 236 residents. Some 213 residents claimed to be ministers of the California-based church which grants mail order ordinations upon payment.

Hardenburgh town officials reported in January that they planned to grant the religious tax exemptions to Universal Life Church members to create a test case. New York State tax officials have reportedly warned that Universal Life members are not eligible for tax exemption.

Kerwick, the town assessor, said other religious organizations in the area have received tax-exempt status and he intended to "enforce the law equally."

Hardenburgh officials said they were seeking a test case not only for the Universal Life Church but to challenge property tax exemptions allowed for other religious groups. One official claimed that more than 50 per cent of the land in some New York communities are tax exempt.



## Church Secretaries' Seminar Is Planned For January 23-27

Church secretaries in Mississippi will have opportunity Jan. 23-27 to update their secretarial knowledge and improve their skills.

The Baptist Building will be the meeting place for the four-day Church Secretaries Certification Seminar which leads a church secretary through an intensive study plan to certification.

Lucy Hoskins and Joan McDonough will lead the seminar conferences.

Hoskins is consultant with the administrative services section, Church Administration Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville. A native Kentuckian, she has served as church secretary and also as associate editor of the Sunday School Board's church administration materials.

McDonough is secretary, Seminary Extension Department of the Southern Baptist Convention, and guest conference leader for Church Secretary's Personal Enrichment Program seminars. A native of Texas, Mrs. McDonough is co-author of the "Study Guide for Church Secretary's Personal Enrichment Program."

While the seminar is designed primarily for the church secretary, it may also be helpful to those from the association, state and SBC agency offices.

The seminar will begin at 8:30 Mon-



Hoskins

McDonough

day morning, Jan. 23 and close at 11:30 Friday morning, Jan. 27.

The secretary who attends the seminar will make a careful study of the nature of the church and her role in it, investigate her own personal needs, and find better ways to relate to her boss and become a better member of the team. She will learn the latest and best record-keeping techniques. She will study the special rules that apply to good church finance. She will learn the steps necessary to make her communications quicker, clearer, and surer. She will also consider better ways to manage her time and organize her work.

Each presentation is followed by an hour-and-a-half laboratory session.

Basic and/or Advanced examinations to determine certification will be given Friday morning.

Any secretary interested in attending should study Hoskins' Church Sec-

retary: Girl Friday and the CSPEP Study Guide. She may register by sending her name to Church Administration Department, 127 Ninth Avenue, N. Nashville, Tennessee 37234, along with the \$25 registration fee. The fee covers three luncheons, notebook, certificates, and other seminar-related materials. (Seminar is limited to 45 participants).

## SBC CP Lags After Two Months

NASHVILLE (BP) — Giving to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) national Cooperative Program unified budget rallied during the second month of the 1977-78 fiscal year but not enough to offset the slow start in October.

Undesignated receipts, funneled to SBC causes from 33 state or multi-state Baptist conventions, amounting to \$3,302,166 through the first two months — 6.29 percent ahead of the same point last year. A total of \$3,956,261 in November registered 10.22 percent ahead of the same month last year.

Total giving for the year to date, including the Cooperative Program amount and another \$837,956 in desig-

Hyderabad, India (RNS) — Evangelist Billy Graham pledged here that his association will provide money to rebuild all the churches that were destroyed or damaged in the recent cyclones in India. He said at least 100 churches were destroyed and that most were huts which can be rebuilt for \$1,000 each. "We will provide the money to rebuild all of them, regardless of denomination," Graham promised.

"Growing Evangelistic Churches" is the theme of the Evangelism Conference. Send your pastor.

## The Missions Task Forget "Business As Usual"!

By John Alexander, Director, Stewardship Department

If everyone is to have an opportunity to hear the gospel by A. D. 2000, we must depend heavily upon the media — radio, television, books, pamphlets, magazines, tapes, and films. The ideal way to witness is the person-to-person approach but if we are to reach everyone this approach is not possible in the time frame we have set for ourselves. The mass media is capable of reaching a population mass in one exposure, including audiovisual, print, and broadcast media. The mass media can also penetrate areas not open to missionary activities.

Irma Duke, in an article in *The Commission*, says, "Southern Baptists are a part of a group of Christian organizations that asked the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to use a satellite for experimental community service programming. Since January 1977 the satellite has been situated where programs can be beamed to several Latin American countries, according to Fred T. Laughon, special assistant to Paul M. Stevens, president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, Fort Worth, Texas.

Satellite systems are bringing television programs to people all over the world, and the message of salvation is going to have to be programmed in, according to Abe G. Thiessen, executive director of International Christian Broadcasters and one of the initial instigators of the NASA project.

Using another satellite, Baptist programs in Indonesia are aired free of charge throughout the country. The satellite makes all local service programs available throughout the country simultaneously. All of this is free of charge. The government gives Baptists the time and pays the production costs for a 23-minute program broadcast six to eight times a year. Other Baptist films are used to fill in.

A new project using video cassettes is under way now in Japan. A video cassette player will be taken from house to house among Christians in the Kansai area of Japan. The householders will invite friends and family to view the programs with them.

Bible studies, based on an 11-lesson radio Bible correspondence course, will also be available during alternating weeks or as follow-up sessions.

The cassette ministry will seek to promote use of homes for evangelism and to strengthen and encourage Christians in their evangelistic outreach. A goal of six non-Christians present has been set for each viewing.

If Southern Baptists are going to proclaim the gospel to the 5.5 billion or so people projected in the world population by A. D. 2000, the use of mass media will have to be vastly increased. With over half the world without missionary contact, mass communication methods must be used. Radio will be utilized to communicate the Christian message to Communist and Muslim countries where missionaries either cannot go or are prevented from preaching.

The publication of Christian literature must be increased. Southern Baptists must strive to make available Bibles and adequate supportive literature for every language and age group.

The door of opportunity is being thrust open wide to Southern Baptists. "Business as usual" will not get the job done. Every church and every Baptist should be making plans NOW to provide the resources and personnel for this TOTAL MISSION THRUST.

## D. Min. Seminar Still Offered In Jackson

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has offered Doctor of Ministry seminar work in Jackson for two years. The seminary desires to continue such seminar offerings. The continuation of Doctor of Ministry seminar work in Jackson is dependent on the expression of interest on the part of qualified applicants.

Persons interested in the Doctor of Ministry program at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary should write Dr. Bradford Curry, Director of Doctor of Ministry, 3939 Gentilly Blvd. New Orleans, Louisiana 70126.

The Mississippi Baptist Cooperative Missions Department would like to join Brad Curry in urging church re-

lated vocational workers who are interested in working on the Doctor of Ministries degree to get in touch with Curry or Foy Rogers of the Cooperative Missions Department, which will be glad to share any information that it can concerning this ministry. (Hollis Bryant will be in charge of this area of work for the Cooperative Missions Department beginning January 1, 1977.)

In the past, Therman Bryant arranged classes in Hebrew at Reformed Seminary and Greek to be taught at the Baptist Building by a professor at Blue Mountain. Should there be those who lack language requirements, Cooperative Missions personnel will be glad to talk to you about how this can be worked out.

## Graham Trip To USSR Is Possible

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (BP) — The leader of the Soviet Union's largest Protestant group claims there is more religious freedom in his country than believed here and confirmed that negotiations are underway for a possible invitation to evangelist Billy Graham to preach there.

Alexei Bichkov, general secretary of the All Union Council of Evangelical Christians - Baptists in the USSR, said that he had spoken with a Graham assistant at the team's headquarters in Atlanta.

The Graham visit is being approached as would that of any other minister, said Bichkov. It has not been decided where Graham would preach if invited. The American evangelist spoke in open air meetings recently in Hungary, but outside assemblies of believers are prohibited by law in the Soviet Union.

Later, Bichkov said that authorities have helped him erect a "big building" for the Kiev group. Another Kiev pastor, who works fulltime in an office, has placed believers in key jobs in management, according to Bichkov. Superiors are happy with the arrangement because work in the office has improved.

Despite government supported efforts to encourage atheism and keep youth from religious exposure, there is a strong increase in the number of young people turning to Christianity in the Soviet Union, Bichkov said. Of the 6,000 people baptized in registered churches last year, about half were youths, said the Russian pastor.

Baptists, the leaders said, maintain a focus on the guarantee of the Soviet constitution for freedom of conscience. "Sometimes there are clashes here and there," he said.

"But," said Zhidkov, "Baptists are the same everywhere. We fight for freedom and independence."

Asked if President Carter's human rights stance had affected his religious life in the Soviet Union, Bichkov said the position was accepted negatively because, "every person who points fingers at others points three fingers to himself."

"Our government is also concerned about human rights," said Bichkov. When asked how this balances with the inability of Jews to emigrate from the Soviet Union, Zhidkov said they could leave but perhaps not as fast as they would wish.

Both Bichkov and Zhidkov are officers of the Baptist World Alliance and travel widely throughout the world. Some critics have charged that the government permits their travel to give the appearance of religious freedom in the Soviet Union.

They each denied "seeing" violations of human rights in the communist country. "In many cases, your press exaggerates," Zhidkov said, adding that violations of human rights can be pointed out in many countries.

Asked if they were required to report to authorities about their visit when they return to the Soviet Union, Bichkov jokingly replied, "My wife is expecting my report." He also said the Soviet news agency TASS is now very interested in the work of religious leaders and might seek an interview.

Soviet society does impose some restrictions on religion, the leader said. For one thing there can be no Sunday School as there is in the United States. But, at the Moscow Baptist Church the Bible is taught during the worship period.

The churches are not permitted to have youth organizations, but there is a "spontaneous" set of youth activities at the churches. "Church life cannot be regulated," said Zhidkov.

## Texans Plan Financial Aid For Dallas Baptist College

DALLAS (BP) — Texas Baptists' executive board approved a \$2,950,000 package at its December meeting here designed to solve Dallas Baptist College's financial and accreditation problems.

The 192-member board, which transacts business between annual sessions of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, also accepted an invitation to provide several thousand volunteer short-term mission workers for a four year evangelistic campaign in Brazil.

Dallas Baptist College officials said the financial plan, adopted after lengthy discussion by the board, was expected to insure the school's accreditation when the accreditation committee of the Southern Association

of Colleges and Schools meets Dec. 11. The accrediting agency placed the school on public probation a year ago, contending that too much of the school's revenues were going to debt retirement. It set a December deadline for the school to remedy the situation or lose its accreditation.

W. E. Thorn, president of Dallas Baptist, called the financial plan "a miracle." He had said earlier that loss of accreditation would render degrees worthless. "We would have no alternative but to close the school," he said.

Thorn, who assumed the presidency of the financially-troubled school in 1975, said the college has already raised \$675,000 of the \$1,275,000 which it pledged to raise in three years, over

and above its regular annual sustentation fund.

The remainder of the package includes \$200,000 to be raised by Dallas Baptist Association and another \$1,475,000 by the state convention (which includes \$175,000 approved last May), \$700,000 from the purchase of four tracts of land owned by Dallas Baptist College in Dallas, Tarrant and Johnson Counties, and \$600,000 over the next three years from unrestricted convention monies.

The financial plan will pay off all of the school's capital indebtedness except for bonded indebtedness on residence halls, said Glenn Biggs, San Antonio banker who served on the ad hoc committee that drafted the plan.

## Careful Planning Urged On Homes For Missionaries

RICHMOND — Providing a house for furloughing missionaries can be a happy experience for the church and for the missionaries if the house is needed.

But it is discouraging and a waste of money for a church to prepare a house and then find that it remains empty for months or years.

To avoid such a problem, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board urges churches or associations interested in providing missionary homes to make contact first with Eunice Smith, a former missionary to Nigeria who works to achieve a balance between the "supply" and "demand" for such housing.

Mrs. Smith, manager of the missionary housing section of the board's department of furlough ministries since 1972, told Foreign Mission Board members at their November meeting that 207 such housing units now are available to help meet missionaries' furlough needs.

More missionary homes are needed, Mrs. Smith said, but the need is not uniform throughout the country. Since most missionaries prefer to spend furloughs in the states where their relatives and friends live, a church that is considering providing such housing should first contact Mrs. Smith to determine the need that exists in that particular area.

Here are some other questions that she can help the church to answer:

How do we go about setting up the house? What should we provide? How do we get a missionary family to live in our house? What should we expect of them, and what are our responsibilities?

Mrs. Smith knows the number of missionary residences provided in each area, as well as the number of inquiries she has had for housing there. She sends a list of such residences to all missionaries twice a year.

When the need for another home in an area is established, the sponsoring church or association must decide whether it already owns a suitable dwelling or whether it needs to buy or rent one. Sometimes, renting is advisable in the period when a church is trying to determine whether a perma-

nent missionary house is needed, Mrs. Smith points out.

Most families need three or four bedrooms, but single missionaries also must find a place to live. They are often happy with an apartment. In the case of housing for a family, the church should consider whether convenient and suitable schooling is available for children of all ages, she adds.

Furnishing and maintaining the house can best be done by a committee. Each appliance or piece of equipment which makes for more convenient living frees the missionary's time and energy for other things, Mrs. Smith explains.

She urges churches to furnish an adequate supply of linens, dishes, and small items the family will need. These items can be very costly if missionaries must buy them for every furlough. Some churches even provide staple foods or spices as a thoughtful "extra." When the new family first arrives, a church will often provide for their first meals and assist them during a get-acquainted shopping trip. A list of emergency telephone numbers for that city also is helpful, Mrs. Smith says.

Mrs. Smith asks that she be notified when the house is expected to be ready for occupancy. She will include it in her list to be sent to missionaries, and they will correspond directly with the contact person. Arrangements and reservations are made directly between the missionary and the church.

Most residences are provided rent-free with the missionary paying the utilities, according to Mrs. Smith. The policy should be clearly understood by both before the arrangement is agreed upon. All correspondence to the missionaries should be sent air mail.

Missionary family schedules fill quickly on furloughs. Mrs. Smith cautions against placing heavy demands in terms of time on the missionary family. Many even accept speaking engagements before leaving the field, says Mrs. Smith. When involving the missionary family in church programs or special services, it's best to arrange the schedule in advance — for a time suitable to both the church and the family.

"Have a service of dedication for your house," she suggests. "Ask God to bless it and those who will live in it to His glory."



James Taylor, second from left, is teacher of the class of men enrolled in the doctor of ministries program which meets weekly at the Baptist Building in Jackson. Taylor is professor of preaching at New Orleans Seminary. Foy Rogers, left, directs the department of cooperative ministries for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, which coordinates the class program with New Orleans Seminary. Two of the students who are finishing up class requirements for the program are also shown. L. H. McCollough, third from left, is pastor of FBC, Bastrop, La. His research project for the program relates to the reclamation of inactive church members. Jerry File, right, is pastor of Second Avenue Baptist Church in Laurel. His project is on a teacher training ministry. Billy Simmons, another New Orleans professor, taught a second class at the Baptist Building. More than 20 men were enrolled in this last sequence.

### The Issue: TV

## Opposing Sides Meet In Public Forum

NEW YORK (BP) — Representatives from the fields of television and religion squared off here to debate the pros and cons of carrying protests over television programming to national advertisers.

Responses ranged from labeling it "frightening" to viewing it as "re-sponsable," but all agreed it can be very effective.

The discussion came during a taping of the David Susskind Show, which will be aired sometime in December in about 70 cities, mostly on public broadcasting stations. It marked the first time during the recent controversy over the content of television

programs, created especially by the debate over the ABC-TV "Soap" series, that opposing sides have met in a public forum.

Panelists were Foy Valentine, executive secretary of the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC); Everett Parker, United Church of Christ's director of communications; Gordon Van Sauter, vice president of program practices for CBS; Al Schneider, vice president for programming at ABC; and Jim Karayan, manager of WHYY-TV, a public broadcasting station in Philadelphia.

Economic pressure was the primary topic, but a wide disparity of opinion was voiced on nearly every issue.

Schneider questioned the appropriateness of using economic pressure as a means of influencing television, while Valentine and Parker claimed it is the only effective way for concerned people to get the networks' attention.

Because of economic protest, ABC has had difficulty attracting national advertisers for its "Soap" series, and Schneider admitted the network received 6,000 to 7,000 letters a week during the first few episodes.

Valentine called that approach "responsible reaction" of the American people who, he said, are the "absentee landlords" of the air waves.

"It's the consumers' money," Valentine insisted. "We are simply urging our people to be good stewards of the money which goes to advertisers who sponsor programs such as 'Soap.'"

Raleigh, N. C. (RNS) — The North Carolina attorney general's office announced here that Christian Yellow Pages, a business directory open only to "born-again Christians," violates no law, state or federal.

Nashville (RNS) — Six leading black denominations have initiated plans to strengthen the Boy Scout movement in the black community and to increase the number of Scout groups sponsored by black churches.

New York (EP) — Permission has been given by the Cuban government for importation of 5,000 Bibles and New Testaments to be distributed there by local Protestant churches. The United Bible Societies are sponsoring the project.



Numbers indicate homes available

Some 207 residences are provided for Southern Baptist missionary families during their furloughs as indicated on the map. These range from one in some states to 36 in Texas.



# The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Editorials

### January Bible Study . . .

## Exodus: Book Of Redemption

Southern Baptists as a body are approaching the time of January Bible Study, and Southern Baptists individually should make plans to take advantage of the opportunity.

Next year's study is Exodus, and this is a book rich in meaning for the Christian. Studying this book will open many doors of understanding of both the Old Testament and the New Testament.

As do the gospels in the New Testament, Exodus relates the redemptive message of God. This book details the

history of a people in bondage who were delivered into freedom by the hand of God. Exodus tells of God's covenant with His people. As do the gospels, Exodus shows the Lordship of God over man, nature, and history. It tells of a man who gives himself completely to a divine calling to be the mediator between God and man and to be the divinely appointed agent to arrange for breaking the bonds of slavery and to lead God's people into the light of freedom.

A study of the Bible is of great importance in the life of a church. It goes

on week by week in the Sunday School classes and from the pulpit, but this annual effort gives occasion to isolate one book and give complete attention to it for however long the period of study might be.

Surely individual Baptists would be urged to take advantage of this most important opportunity. By the same token, if there are churches which have not yet decided to have a comprehensive and definitive examination of Exodus, perhaps they can be persuaded to make a change in schedules and include January Bible Study.

Who can help but be thrilled as he contemplates the threat of death in every household in Egypt and realize that the Lord intervened through the blood of a lamb to save His people. Who can help but marvel as the waters are rolled back, at the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night, and at the providence of God in the wilderness.

It is an important and thrilling account of the Lord of time and eternity dealing with His creature, man. Exodus deserves a detailed study.

### Mississippi Legislature . . .

## Be On The Alert

A regular, long session of the Mississippi Legislature soon will be getting under way. It will begin early in January, and citizens of the state need to be in touch with their legislators or making plans to set up lines of communications so that they can be truly represented.

Perhaps it is a common tendency for people who profess a religious affiliation to feel that their religious efforts are the most important aspects of their lives and nothing else matters much.

It is true, of course, that our religious faith and activities are the most important elements of our lives; but that doesn't mean that other aspects of life should be ignored. Just as our church relationship is of importance in

our spiritual lives, the Legislature is of utmost importance in our secular lives.

Indeed, the entirety of federal, state, and local government is important to us. If we want to get along well in our day-to-day living, we must pay attention to what our governmental bodies are doing. They work for us. It is money in the form of taxes that comes from hard-earned salaries that pays the salaries of governmental personnel and provides for the machinery of government.

A great deal of the time, of course, the Legislature is dealing with moral issues that are of high interest to spiritual people; and sometimes the governing bodies are even dealing with the church organizations them-

selves.

Two bills of interest will be debated in next year's legislative session. One concerns the handling of pornography and the other deals with the influence of alcohol.

During the abbreviated session last spring bills on pornography were introduced in both the House and Senate. Both died without ever getting to the floor of either house. Thus Mississippi has no meaningful law on pornography. This is legislation that needs to be enacted in the forthcoming session.

The bill on liquor would lower the level of the percentage of alcohol in the blood to .10 for intoxication to be presumed. Presently it is .15, the highest in the nation. The new bill would even lower to .07 percent of alcohol in the

blood for one to be presumed to be under the influence of alcohol but not having reached the level of being intoxicated.

This bill would suspend the driver's license for one year of one driving while intoxicated and would suspend the license for 90 days of one who refused to submit to a test on the level of alcohol in the blood stream. Jail terms and fines are also provided on conviction.

These terms are much tougher than are the present restrictions. Some in the Legislature may be disposed to feel they are too tough and would want to bottle up this bill in committee. Restrictions never get too tough when dealing with liquor, however, and this bill needs to pass.

### Federal Grant Refused . . .

## Congratulations To University Medical

Congratulations are in order for officials of the University Medical Center in Jackson for their decision to refuse a \$450,000 federal grant if it were to come with strings attached.

Federal grants always have strings. Historically, Baptists have turned

cold shoulders to governmental offers of aid from the public treasury; but that historic position is being weakened as time goes by. The factors that kept Baptists from accepting public money in the past are still in force in the present and should continue to

keep us away from the public trough.

As is the case with the University Medical Center, we do not need to be dealing with being pulled by governmental strings when we have accepted some of the public's money. Further, we should not be expecting

Methodists and Catholics and Pentecostals, and Presbyterians to help us pay for our ministries. But more than that, if we want to do something and need to do it, we should be willing and able to pay for it ourselves.

Besides, taking federal money increases taxes.

### Paul Set Example . . .

## How To Pray For Missionaries

By James D. Crane  
Guadalajara, Mexico

As a Christian missionary Paul spent much time praying for others. From Acts and his thirteen letters we gather at least twenty instances of such intercession. But Paul also felt the need for others to pray for him. Sometimes he voiced that need in requests of a general nature, such as we find in Rom. 15:30 and I Thess. 5:25. But more often he zeroed in on specific concerns which his missionary labors brought to the fore. In doing so he gives us a guide for our missionary intercessions today.

We should pray for missionaries to "be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men" (2 Thess. 3:2; Rom. 15:31a). As we move toward the end time Scripture leads us to expect a great outburst of Satanic opposition against all Christian endeavor. Bill Wallace may well be the last Southern Baptist missionary to seal his testimony with his blood.

We should pray that the missionary's service "may be accepted of the saints" (Rom. 15:31b). The United States is little loved by most peoples of our world. The resentments produced by mistakes in our foreign policy often spill over into even Christian hearts and hinder full acceptance of the missionary's presence. Only prayer support can break down this barrier and give God's ambassador that loving acceptance by national believers which is so essential to the success of his work.

We should pray for God to open doors of opportunity for the missionary's witness (Col. 4:3). From his experiences in Jerusalem (Acts 22:17-21) and Antioch (Acts 11:25-26) Paul learned the difference between butting his head up against a stone wall and walking through an open door. The missionary's time is too short and his resources too limited for him to expend them on stone walls. He needs God's guidance to open doors.

We should pray for God to give the missionary courage to witness boldly for his Lord in all circumstances (Eph. 6:19-20). It may come as a surprise to some to realize that the great Paul had a problem at this point. But many a modern missionary can testify that this is a recurring need for him. Such boldness comes only from the fullness of God's Spirit (Acts 4:31).

We should pray that God will enable the missionary to make his message plain (Col. 4:4). Such is the meaning of the KJV's expression "make it manifest." Most missionaries have to witness in a second language. This request, then, involves both language proficiency and the wisdom to know how to "put the fodder down where the sheep can reach it."

We should pray for God to make the missionary's witness fruitful (2 Thess. 3:1). A heart-rending aspect of most missionaries' furlough is the constant reminder of how few believers there are on his particular field of labor as compared with what he sees in the homeland. This writer, for instance, serves in Guadalajara, Mexico, a city of two million people. In this metrop-

lex there are only 13 Baptist churches with a combined membership of just over 1,500. One cannot help but long for your prayers that here, too, "the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you" (NIV).

There is one major difference between Paul and most contemporary missionaries. Paul was not a family man! If he had been, I believe that he would have added one more request to his list. So let me add it for him in the name of all my colleagues. Please pray for God to bless the parents whom missionaries leave behind as well as the children whom they take with them to the field and from whom, all too soon, they must be separated as they return to the States for their continued education.

As we come to the season of prayer for foreign missions, try praying for those missionaries you know in keeping with this outline which comes, for the most part, from the heart of the greatest missionary who ever lived.

## On The Moral Scene

**UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS** — Crime in the United States, as measured by the Crime Index offenses, decreased 7 percent during the first six months of 1977 compared to the same period in 1976. Violent crimes, as a group, showed no change. Robbery declined 5 percent and murder 2 percent. Aggravated assault increased 4 percent and forcible rape rose 8 percent. The property crimes of burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft decreased 7 percent as a group. Geographically, the North Central states reported an 11 percent decline while the Northeastern states down 8 percent, the Southern states down 5 percent, and the Western states down 3 percent. (Uniform Crime Reports, January-June, 1977)

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir:

Another fiscal year has closed. This provides me with the opportunity to express thanks for the \$10,826.58 given through Mississippi to support the work of the Stewardship Commission.

Our total budget was approximately five times Cooperative Program receipts. In a way, we took your gifts and multiplied them five times in services to Southern Baptists.

I hope you will be able to find some way of helping realize the stewardship goals of increased percentages by churches and state conventions that will make Bold Mission Thrust a reality.

If there is any way I may be of assistance, I want to!

A. R. Fagan  
SBC Stewardship  
Commission

### A Movie God

Dear Sir:

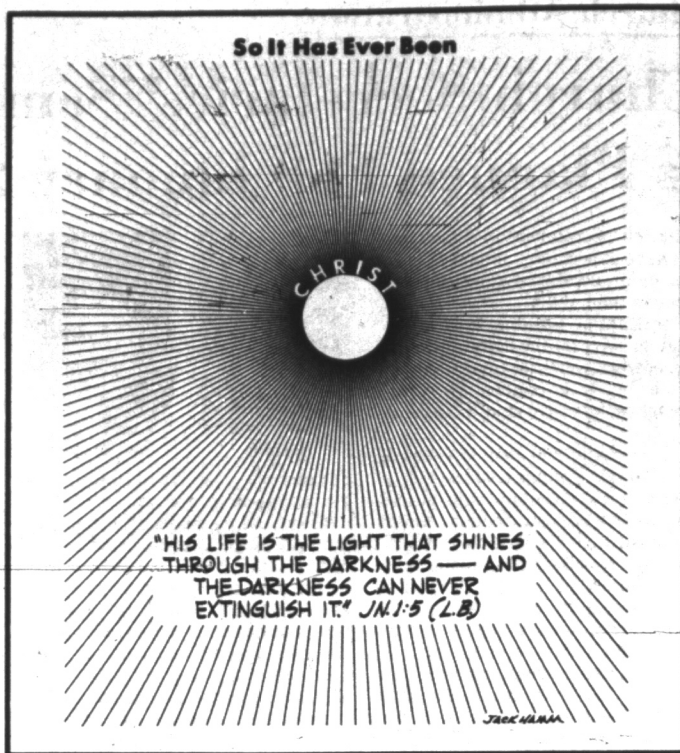
There is a movie showing at a theater in our area entitled "Oh God!" In this film, George Burns has the audacity to take on the role of God, and tries to bring our Holy Father-God down on a level that is contrary to His attributes. God changes His methods (this film is not an example of it) but He never changes His nature or purpose. This film has attempted to show God as a "good ole God." We find in Num. 23:19, God is not a man. Mal. 3:6, "For I, the Lord, do not change." In Prov. 9:10, "The knowledge of the Holy is understanding."

It seems as if those involved in all aspects of the film are very limited (as we all are) in their concept of God. He is a God of love, Jer. 31:3, "Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love, but He is also a bold God who pours out judgement and wrath against sin." Ps. 5:4, 6, "For thou art not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness; no evil dwells with thee, Thou dost destroy those who speak falsehood."

We, as Christians, need to take a prayerful stand against movies that attempt to give us a wrong impression of our Heavenly Father.

Is. 42:8, "I will not give my glory to another."

Mrs. Wendell Luther  
Pontotoc



## Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

Poinsettias were blooming in Jalapa and Tegucigalpa and there was a Christmas tree at the airport in San Jose. At the Panama International Airport, Margaret Fry and I sat down in weariness beside our luggage. It was December, but the temperature was 91 degrees and it didn't seem like Christmas.

Sunday night at the Hotel Granado was too short. We were up at 4:45 a.m. Two missionaries met us at the airport at 5:45. Harold Hurst was going to fly with us to Ailigandi in the San Blas Islands and Ervin Hastey was there to see us off.

We bought tickets on the TASA Airline. Hurst whispered, "Those letters mean 'Take Another; Stay Alive.'" We ate sweet rolls and drank black coffee. Time for our departure arrived and passed. Hastey left. Other flights were announced, but not ours. The sun climbed higher. At 9:30 there was still no plane for San Blas.

It was 1974 and Hurst had just been transferred from Honduras to Panama. As new administrator of the hospital on Ailigandi, he had been taking a similar flight once or twice a week.

Margaret and I had been on 10 or 12 different planes in two weeks, but this was to be our first flight on such a small plane, and frankly we were shaky. It didn't help when Hurst said, "Our missionary plane crashed not long ago, and the pilot is still in the hospital. The engine stalled as he was about to land — the plane only had one engine — and there was nothing much he could do."

Our flight was announced. Just then a very old plane, with peeling paint and one engine, taxied out onto the field. One tire was flat. Margaret nervously asked, "Don't you think it was meant for us to stay here today?" Hurst tried to reassure her, but I thought I saw a flicker of doubt in his eyes, too.

Then a beautiful little plane swooped down and we realized that this was it. Two engines. We were saved!

Nine of us were soaring high above the mountains and jungles when I heard a definite rattle, like a door ajar. The Indian on the seat behind me cried out, "The door is open!" (He was sitting beside it.) The pilot, busy talking with Hurst, didn't even look around.

He calmly said, "Well, close it."

In just a few minutes we were zooming down toward a turquoise sea where the islands looked like scattered shells. Thatched rooftops were so close that houses on Ailigandi appeared to be all one house. The pilot aimed at a narrow lane at the edge of the mainland. We bounced along it for a few feet, and stopped at the brink of the ocean. We crossed over to the island in a small boat.

All day Hurst and the missionary doctor, Dan Gruver, were busy discussing and trying to solve problems pertaining to the operation of the hospital. I met some of the hospital patients. One grandmother was begging to see her grandson who was very, very ill.

That night I slept on a couch in the combination living room-kitchen of the missionary apartment adjoining the hospital.

The top of the walls did not quite meet the roof, and all night a cat kept leaping around from one wall to another.

A nurse, an anthropologist, and Margaret were sleeping in two bedrooms. A nurse's aide was in a hammock on the porch. I think that Hurst and Gruver slept part of the night in another bedroom, but it could not have been much for they were in and out of the kitchen most of the night.

Lying there, I thought, "Missionaries work very hard — sometimes day and night. Surely they deserve all the aid we can give them through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering."

Once during the night I heard the doctor say that the little boy had died. Some time later, toward morning, I heard one of the missionaries say that a child had just been born. Suddenly then, it seemed like Christmas.

Because someone somewhere in the past had brought to Ailigandi the good news of the Birth of a Child, there were Christians here now, and a church, and a hospital. A woman wearing a hand-made mola and a gold nose ring tomorrow would be selling Bibles at her cold drink stand beside the dock.

There was no vegetation on the island except a fringe of palm trees at the edges. But in a house I had visited that evening, I had seen fastened to the wall a string of lights in the shape of a Christmas tree.

## Book Reviews

**CHRISTMAS** by Charles L. Allen and Charles L. Wallis (Fleming H. Revell, 158 pp., \$6.95) Three popular classics have been combined in one special volume: "Christmas In Our Hearts," "Candle, Star, and Christmas Tree," and "When Christmas Came To Bethlehem." Origins and significance of many traditions and symbols handed down from generation to generation are illuminated. This attractive book is a good one for reading aloud to family and friends. It is stated in the Preface: "Sometimes we are challenged to get Christ back into Christmas. But Christ never left Christmas. . . . The real challenge is to get the Christ of Christmas into our hearts. . . ."

**THE REAL REASON FOR CHRISTMAS** by Margaret Taliaferro (Doubleday, \$5.95) Margaret Taliaferro has been teaching children's Bible classes for 15 years. Each Christmas she has addressed a letter to her students, presenting the message of the Nativity in her own special way. This volume includes 12 of those letters, hand-written by the author and illustrated with her delightful line drawings.

**ARARAT** by Elgin Groseclose (David C. Cook, paper, \$2.95, 450 pp.) In this historical novel, an American missionary and his Armenian flock turn to Ararat for protection from the Turks and the Russians — the same mountain on which Noah and his family found refuge. The story's key figure, Amos Lyle, is a missionary from Texas who devotes his life to a group of Armenians. Opening with an 1895 massacre by the Turks, the novel carries through to 1920. This is the third

edition of an award-winning book that was previously published in 1939 and 1974.

**HE CARES, HE COMFORTS** by Corrie ten Boom (Fleming H. Revell, \$4.95, 95 pp.) The author of THE HID-ING PLACE ministers to those who find themselves in tragic circumstances. This book is the first in a new series entitled JESUS IS VICTOR, in which Corrie will tell about the ways God has touched the lives of people she has known.

**VANCE HAVNER — JOURNEY FROM JUGTOWN** by Douglas M. White (Revell, 192 pp., \$6.95) The biography of one of Southern Baptists' most widely known, and best loved Bible teacher and evangelists. Vance Havner grew up in the mountains of Western North Carolina. Called of God to preach when he was just a boy, and early widely known as "the boy preacher" he grew into manhood to become an effective pastor, and then a widely used evangelist and teacher, and the author of many books. In early manhood Havner wandered for a while into the confusion of liberalism, but before long found himself, and returned to the solid, unshakable position of the Word of God. He became one of the strongest voices for the conservative position. Called by some the "Will Rogers" of the Baptist pulpit because of his unusual humor, and his homely philosophy, he has been used of God all across America, both in Southern Baptist circles, and far beyond, to present the truths of Christ and His Word in power. This book will warm the heart and feed the soul as one through its pages walks with this mighty teacher in his glorious ministry.

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# Georgia Baptists Help Toccoa Flood Victims

By W. D. Joiner

TOCCOA, Ga. (BP) — When flood waters from a swollen Toccoa creek washed away the lives of 38 students, faculty members and other residents and part of the tiny Toccoa Falls College campus early on Nov. 6, Georgia Baptists provided relief.

"All immediate needs of the flood victims are now being met," said David Turner, pastor of First Baptist Church, Toccoa. "Our church is acting as the central relief agency for collecting clothes, food, water and other goods they will need."

When the earthen dam on the lake above Toccoa Creek broke about 2 a.m., it sent a 30-foot high wall of water rampaging down the stream. In its path, a small mobile home park slept. Some victims never knew what hit them.

Likewise a college dormitory, situated near the creek bank, was flooded. A number of men students died in their sleep from the raging waters. Several buildings on campus were completely demolished, including the music building.

When word of the tragedy spread, federal and state disaster agencies moved in to give assistance, and so did Baptists.

The Southern Baptist Convention Home Mission Board sent \$2,500 in disaster relief funds for emergency food and clothing and will probably send more as additional needs develop, according to Paul Adkins, who heads the board's disaster relief office.

By 7 a.m. the morning after the flood, Harold Sangster, manager of Toccoa's Georgia Baptist Assembly, six miles from the campus, offered the assembly as a disaster relief headquarters. After discussions with state officials, including the Red Cross and Governor George Busbee, the offer was accepted.

"It's amazing the help we have received from people at the assembly," said Bob Corr, who headed the state Red Cross team which aided flood victims. "We cannot say enough for Harold Sangster and his staff. They have met our every need. The decision to locate the disaster relief headquarters at the Baptist assembly was an excellent one," he continued. Bill Clack, deputy director of the Georgia Civil Defense, also praised Georgia Baptist Assembly cooperation.

Other assistance came from churches and associations of churches. "We have received calls from all parts of the state and from out-of-state Baptists and other denominations offering help," Sangster said.

Local members of First Baptist Church, Toccoa, brought in clothes by

the car load, Turner said, looking over the fellowship hall piled high with clothes and other personal items.

"We have really had more offers for assistance than we need," Turner said. "We must have received 500 calls from people offering help of various types, including housing for those left without homes."

Soon after rescue workers arrived on the scene, members of Toccoa Creek Baptist Church, located across the highway from the college campus, began serving meals for those involved in rescue operation. After most of the bodies were found and cleanup begun, Toccoa Creek Church members continued to serve meals for workers, including Red Cross, Civil Defense and law enforcement officers.

"Response from Baptists and other people of the community is amazing," one of the victims said as he talked by telephone to family members in another state. "Praise the Lord for the response."

In summing up the situation, Corr said, "We could not have gotten the job done without the help Georgia Baptists have provided. It's been amazing." Toccoa Falls College was formerly Toccoa Baptist College, an independent four-year school not affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

W. D. (Dub) Joiner is associate editor of the Christian Index, Atlanta.



## \$34,000,000 Bold Goal

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions

## What If We Give \$34 Million?

BIRMINGHAM, AL — If Southern Baptists do the unprecedented and increase their Christmas offering for foreign missions by 18 percent, they will have \$34 million. What difference would it make?

The first \$22 million goes straight into the Foreign Mission Board operating budget. There it will double the foreign funds available through the Cooperative Program. It will pay salaries of 1,000 of the 2,700 missionaries and help fund their daily work in 88 countries.

After the offering gushes past \$22 million, it will start feeding new missionaries and new strategies. Without money, these will not be touched.

Here are a few practical examples of money requests from missionaries that will be filled only if the offering reaches the \$34 million mark.

ANTOFAGASTA, Chile — The Well-Baby Clinic where Missionary Lois Hart sees an average of 80 infants a day, needs a movie and slide projector, a typewriter, and a heater. The total cost is \$1,600.

GUAYAQUIL, Ecuador — This is a city of more than one million people. If strategic property is purchased, a church can be developed in a growing area of the city. The cost is \$15,000.

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — The Argentine Baptist Seminary has more students than ever before, but there is a crisis of personnel, space, and finances. Lottie Moon funds will add \$75,000 to the operating budget.

SOUTH BRAZIL — The South Brazil Mission and its radio-television board needs correspondence courses. The cost is \$16,000. In two years' time the program has enrolled 26,058 people of which 530 have accepted Jesus Christ as Saviour.

THE CAYMAN ISLANDS — This group of small islands just south of Cuba is a new area of work for Southern Baptists. Missionary Herbert W. Neely arrived on the field during summer of 1977. He needs \$5,760 for his operating budget.

COBAN, Guatemala — A new medical ministry will be started here by Dr. Charles G. Norwood, who is in language school now preparing for the ministry he will have in rural medicine. A budget of \$2,500 is needed for the general medical program.

BANGKOK, Thailand — An all-media penetration program is being planned to acclimatize neighborhoods for the planting of a church. The cost is \$20,000. The mass media program will be just one part of an entire urban strategy in Thailand.

MLANG, COTOBATO, Philippines — Building a high school building for the Southern Baptist College will cost \$45,500. Hundreds of students at this college accept Christ.

JAPAN — At least 10 areas labeled as pioneer regions need land on which to build churches and pastoriums. One of these requests can be filled if the Lottie Moon goal is reached. The cost would be about \$118,500.

HONG KONG — Baptist Press in

East Asia serves not only the Chinese population of Taiwan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, the Philippines, and the United States, but many of the 300 Chinese Baptist churches around the world. Forty thousand dollars will add to the bookstore and help renovate the present building.

RWANDA, East Africa — Rwanda is one of the newest nations to be entered by Southern Baptist missionaries. A Lottie Moon gift of \$7,500 would help build and equip an evangelists' school at Nyantanga.

LIMURU, Kenya — The Brackenbury Baptist Conference Center serves as a meeting place for conventions and conferences throughout the area. Improvements to the conference center would cost \$24,000.

UPPER VOLTA, West Africa — A rural training center is teaching new methods of farming. To complete this center \$42,000 in Lottie Moon gifts is needed.

NIGERIA — A media center is planned to serve as the headquarters for radio, television, and audiovisuals. The center will train seminary students and use all the languages of Nigeria over the national network and 19 state networks in Nigeria. The cost is \$148,000.

## Delta State BSU Offers Ministries

By Joey Babb

The Delta State Baptist Student Union, offers several forms of ministry through the participation of active members. Some of these ministries are share teams visiting various churches, visitation to the local nursing home, and the Trumpet Sound singing group.

The share team is a group of students who visit various churches on Sunday and lead in the worship services. The BSU is blessed with an abundance of talent, as can be witnessed through the share team. Different members take part in the church services through testimony, song, and preaching.

Once each week several students also visit the local nursing home. Here they visit, share, and often bring gifts to the residents. This is a blessed ministry and is probably one of the most appreciated.

The Trumpet Sound is a group of students who share the gospel through testimony and song. Directed by former member Rox Ann McCombs of Vicksburg, the group sings at different churches, schools, and banquets. Members of the group include Diane Bostick of Brandon, Carolyn Carpenter of Senatobia, Debbie Hudson of Batesville, Patricia McNutt of

## Ivory Coast Youth Burns Pagan Idols

By Larry Cox  
Missionary, Ivory Coast

I was preaching that Sunday morning at the Koumassi Baptist Church. During the service the leader announced a meeting to be held after the service for the church leaders and myself. My first reaction was "Oh, no! another problem" because this was the first news I had received of this meeting.

After the service as we gathered under some palm trees beside the church, I noticed the presence of a young man with a curious-looking bag. He had introduced himself that morning in the service as Benjamin and had said that he was a new Christian.

Without wasting any time Benjamin started removing objects from his bag. Then I understood: this man had brought his fetishes (pagan idols) to burn them as a testimony to his new-found faith in the Lord.

I quickly remarked to the leaders that this was something that should be witnessed by the whole church. After everyone had gathered around, Benjamin began. As he showed each fetish he explained what he had believed to be its magical power: a small wooden statue covered with a dirty white piece of cloth, two raw eggs, a white chalky rock, a clay pot filled with bark and two metal blood-stained bowls that had been used for animal sacrifices.

Benjamin described how he had searched for peace and happiness as he practiced his daily rituals with his fetishes. But he said that he was never able to find real peace until he gave his heart to Jesus.

As he poured kerosene over his pagan idols and put a match to them, the people gathered around broke into singing: "It's marvellous. It's marvellous to abandon the world and follow the Lord."

And then Benjamin joined in the singing: "To become a friend of Jesus, it's marvellous, it's marvellous."

How thankful I was to have participated in that "meeting."

Send your pastor and staff to the Evangelism Conference.



## Baptist Leaders Make Survey Trip

WARM SPRINGS INDIAN RESERVATION, Ore. — Baptist work is described by missionary Allen Elston, third from right, to Baptist leaders on their survey trip designed to increase collegiate participation in missions. He is speaking to, from the left: LEWIS NOBLES, MISS.; Bobby Parker, Texas; W. C. Fields, Tenn.; Daniel Grant, Ark.; Robert Lynn, La.; Thomas Parks, N. C.; William G. Tanner, Ga.; Dan Stringer, Ore.; (BP) Photo by Don Rutledge.

## Survey Shows Favor For Women For Non-Pastoral Roles

By Judy Touchton

ATLANTA (BP) — Although most Southern Baptists disapprove of women in pastoral roles, a 1977 survey shows, a majority favor ordaining women for other areas of service.

Of the 389 Southern Baptists sampled by Home Mission Board research assistant Clay Price, three of every four would approve ordination of women for ministry in religious education, youth work and social ministries.

But by the same margin the survey shows Southern Baptists do not feel women can fulfill pastoral roles effectively and do not approve of women serving as ministers.

The survey included 83 pastors, 56 women's ministry union directors, 78 Sunday School teachers and 172 church members. About half the questionnaires were answered by males, half by females. Nearly all the respondents are married and in the 30 to 60 age bracket.

The survey also shows Southern Baptists to be about five years behind the general American population in attitudes about the role of women in society, as compared with 1970 and 1975 Harris surveys published in "Current Opinion."

Price's survey results closely match the 1970 survey results on four statements about the roles of women in society. The 1975 Harris survey showed a more open attitude toward women in other than traditional roles.

On another question nearly two-thirds of the respondents said attitudes

toward women in the ministry will change significantly within the next 25 years.

Price said he undertook this project because the women's issue comes up so many different ways in Southern Baptist life, such as tensions about the ordination of women, the enrollment increase of women in theology schools and the upcoming national Consultation of women in Church Related Vocations, set for January 1978 in Nashville under the sponsorship of the Southern Baptist Convention's Inter-Agency Council (participation by invitation).

"These factors point up to the need for information on the attitudes of Southern Baptists toward women entering traditional male roles," Price said.

Price also was motivated by the Home Mission Board study about a year ago which found that only approximately 10 percent of the available missionary position (counting couples as one position) are filled by women.

"If women are interested in becoming missionaries and, not a whole lot of women are in these jobs, what are the attitudes affecting women filling these roles?" Price wondered. "And what is the likelihood these attitudes will change?"

Several questions on the survey came directly from a similar survey of European Baptists' attitude toward women. "There's a lot of difference in the responses," Price said. "Apparently in Europe women are more accepted in ministry roles than here."

The survey also included some origi-

inal questions dealing with deacons and ordination. Price said one-third of the respondents were open to women serving as deacons.

A full report of the survey will be included in Price's master's thesis on the attitudes of Southern Baptists about women in the ministry.

## 100 From Jackson Leave Dec. 16 For Colorado

Over 100 youth and adults from Van Winkle Church and Alta Woods Church in Jackson will leave Dec. 16 for a winter ski trip and Bible Conference in Durango, Colorado. They will return Dec. 22.

Bible study will be a featured daily. Jim Bain, full-time evangelist from Oxford, Miss., will be the Bible study teacher.

Larry Yarborough, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn., and his wife will also be on the program. Many other churches from various parts of the country will be sending representatives to the conference. At least 1,000 are expected to participate.

Herman Milner is pastor of the Van Winkle Church. Charles E. Myers is pastor of the Alta Woods Church.

1976-77, church media center staff members evaluate work of the past church year. The guide contains criteria for achievement in the areas of programming, organization, finances, relationship of library services to other church services, planning and evaluation and physical resources.

First Church, Hazlehurst, Mary Givens, director; and First Church, Rosedale, Martha M. Martin, director.

In addition, seven merit and three advanced recognitions were earned by other Mississippi church media centers.

Using The Church Media Center (Library) Achievement Guide for

## Mississippi Media Centers Earn Top Recognitions

NASHVILLE — Three Mississippi church media centers were awarded distinguished recognitions, the highest recognition possible, from the Baptist Sunday School Board's church library department for work done during 1976-77.

The churches are First Church, Coldwater, Bess Boone, director;

Using The Church Media Center (Library) Achievement Guide for

## BWA Sends 20,000 Bibles, Hymnals Into East Europe

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — More than 20,000 Bibles and Christian hymnals have been imported into eastern Europe through Baptist World Alliance (BWA) auspices in the past 12 months, according to a report by Gerhard Claas to a meeting of the BWA Relief and Development Committee here.

Bibles are in very short supply in most of the Communist-dominated countries of Eastern Europe, said Claas, BWA associate secretary for Europe. Hymnals are even more scarce. Baptists have worked in all of the "Socialist" Republics, as they call themselves except Albania.

The Alliance's program of inter-

church aid for eastern Europe runs to about \$166,000 a year, in addition to its special program of fostering theological education, according to Carl W. Tiller, associate secretary for relief and development in the BWA's Washington office.

In addition to the Bibles and hymnals, Tiller said, BWA assistance takes such forms as:

—Financial grants for the building, rebuilding, and repair of churches. (Often government restrictions require that such costs be funded in part, sometimes up to half, in western currency, which is unobtainable by the Baptists of the eastern countries except through grants.)

—The importation of blank paper —

newsprint and book paper — for religious printing. (In some of the countries, paper is in short supply, and must be imported.)

—Food, clothing, medicines, and cash grants to pastors, pastors' windows, and other leaders in special need in certain countries. Permission has been obtained to provide aid of this type as a special concession for Christmas in three countries. The pay of pastors in many of the countries is at or below a subsistence level.

In other action, the BWA Relief and Development Committee ratified plans for accelerating theological education in eastern Europe, principally using gifts received by the BWA in earlier years.





Anthony



Hudson



Tappan



Keyes



Hatcher

## Six From State To Graduate

FORT WORTH, Tex. — Six Mississippi students will receive degrees during winter commencement ceremonies at Southwestern Seminary. The program will be held Friday, December 16, 10:00 a.m., at Fort Worth's Travis Avenue Church. The seminary's largest winter graduating class will receive degrees and diplomas from Seminary President Dr. Robert E. Naylor. Over 265 candidates from the seminary's three schools, including 25 doctoral candidates are expected to be recognized. Lavonn D. Brown, pastor, First Church, Norman, Oklahoma, will be the commencement speaker. Mississippians who will graduate are: Thomas Leslie Anthony, Jackson, M.R.E.; Sammy Wayne Hatcher, Meridian, M.D.; James W. Hudson, Jr., Florence, M.R.E.; Donna Lynne Keyes, Clinton, M.R.E.; John Monroe Tappen, Gulfport, M.R.E.; and Kiely D. Young, Meridian, Doctor of Ministry.



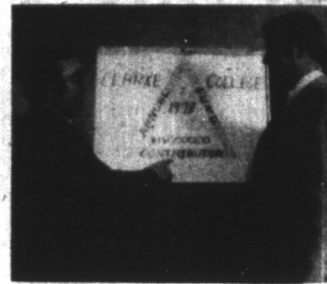
Young

## Clarke Alumni Begin Fund Drive

At the annual Clarke College fellowship dinner in Jackson recently the 1978 fund goal was presented. The amount for this year is \$150,000.

Allen B. Parnell, director of alumni affairs, reported on the 1977 fund and its success and issued a challenge to those present at the dinner to get behind the 1978 fund drive and see it through to victory.

A committee has been organized to reach out to all alumni and friends of the college in order to give an opportunity for participation to as large a number as possible. The committee members are drawn from the trustees, the Development Council, alumni in Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia. They are: Ruben Cleveland, Lexington; Mrs. Leo Hester, Quitman; Lytle Corey, Grenada; Cecil Adkins, Meridian; Paul Wilson, Jackson; David Perry, Columbia; Bill Patten, Carrollton; Carolyn Street, Meridian; Johnny Walker, Lucedale; Scott Wiggers, Kosciusko; Ralph Culp, Hamilton, Ala.; Lintle Ainsworth, Atlanta, Ga.



Paul Wilson (left), chairman of the committee and pastor of Hanging Moss Church in Jackson, discusses the goal with Allen B. Parnell, director of alumni affairs at Clarke.

Are you sending your pastor to the Evangelism Conference?

## Conferences To Look At Television's Impact

NASHVILLE — Understanding television's impact on American life and looking at ways to cope with its moral challenge will comprise the agenda for this summer's Christian Life Commission Conferences at Gloria and Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Centers.

Harry N. Hollis, Jr., director of family and special moral concerns for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, will lead the sessions at Ridgecrest, July 1-7.

Charles V. Petty, director of the Council on Christian Life and Public Affairs for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, will be the guest leader at Gloria, July 22-28.

Sessions will include discussions on family viewing habits, television's impact on children and possible ways

of affecting positive changes in programming. The conferences are sponsored by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention. Reservations are handled by the two conference centers.

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MISSISSIPPI POWER & LIGHT

Helping Build Mississippi

## First Boys Use Central Hills Property

The James Young Crusader RA Chapter of the Springdale Church in Attala County spent the afternoon of October 8 hiking and fishing at Central Hills Baptist Retreat. The adventure was concluded with a campfire-cookout and a time of worship at the church. James Young Chapter is the first RA group to use the Central Hills Camp property. Members of the group are: Shannon England, Troy England, Dwayne Hodges, Barry Hodges, Brian Oakes, Charles Sims, and Scott Steen. Cecil Oakes, Brotherhood director and Mrs. Oakes, Tim Oakes, and Mrs. Floyd Higginbotham, counselor, accompanied the group in this activity. W. Levon Moore, director of missions for Attala County and chairman of the development committee for Central Hills, was on hand to offer assistance.

## NAMES IN THE NEWS

Morris Chapman, a native of Kosciusko and 1963 graduate of Mississippi College, has been re-elected president of the Baptist Convention of New Mexico.



Chapman is pastor of First Baptist Church of Albuquerque, and was named to Who's Who in Religion in America.

Odell Tebo, pastor of Ridgecrest Church, Hattiesburg, and his wife were honored with a surprise Pastor Appreciation Day on Nov. 20. It was the second anniversary of their service at Ridgecrest. Ford Broome, chairman of deacons, presented a framed appreciation certificate. Carmen Davis presented a boutonniere and orchid corsage to the pastor and wife. A "This Is Your Life" program was given, on the pastor's life. Also a love offering was given. The Tebos' children, Mike, Steve, and Mrs. Tony (Linda) Brown were present for the activities.

A. Winston Ross, pastor of Midway Church, Pontotoc, since 1972, has been named to appear in Who's Who in Religion in America second edition 1977-78. He was included in Who's Who in Religion first edition, 1975-76 and recently was chosen to appear in the 1976-77 edition of Notable Americans. He served as vice-moderator of Pontotoc County Association in 1974-75, moderator in 1975-76 and 1976-77 and interim director of missions for four and one-half months in 1977.



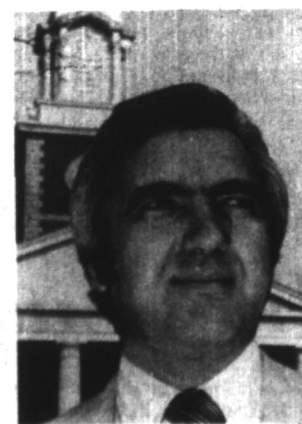
Ross was chosen to appear in the 1976-77 edition of Notable Americans. He served as vice-moderator of Pontotoc County Association in 1974-75, moderator in 1975-76 and 1976-77 and interim director of missions for four and one-half months in 1977.

Julia Parker Smith, wife of Solie I. Smith, died November 22, in the Bogalusa Community Medical Center, Bogalusa, Louisiana. She was 59. Her husband was pastor of Superior Avenue Baptist Church in Bogalusa for 16 years and retired two years ago. In retirement they have resided at Route One, Box 280, Carriere, Miss. Smith formerly was pastor of First Church of Stonewall, and Center Terrace Church, Canton. Survivors are the husband; three children, Carol May of Columbia, Joyce Garrett of Ocean Springs, and Paul D. Smith of Jackson; and six grandchildren.

Avis Herrod Brown (Mrs. Marx) of 1015 Gill St., Columbia, presented one of her oil paintings, "Peaceful Living," to Governor Cliff Finch when he was in Columbia recently. Brown, who has lived in Columbia for many years and was formerly stewardship chairman for the Marion association WMU, plans to move to south Florida early in 1978 because doctors have recommended that she live in a warmer climate. She has done an oil painting of the Mississippi magnolia, which she plans to present to the governor of Florida.

Antonina Canzoneri, missionary to the Bahamas and a former Mississippian, is reproducing, with some adaptation, the Bible Way Correspondence Course put out by Southern Baptist missionaries in Zambia. This has been greatly facilitated, she reports, by the purchase of an electric stencil cutter with Lottie Moon funds from last year. She is about half way through the fifth of nine books, and about 150 people in the Bahamas are taking the course now. She is also circulation editor for the Bahamas Baptist Gazette which began publication this year.

Evangelist Anis Shorosh, native of Nazareth, Israel, and now living in Mobile, Ala., has just concluded a series of revival services at Williamsville Church in Attala Association. Joe Blackwell is the pastor.



Thomas A. Berry, former director of development and admissions at Louisiana College, in Pineville, La., has been named vice president for development at the New Orleans Seminary. Berry was elected by the Seminary trustees to replace Russell McIntire, who recently resigned to accept a call as pastor of the Oak Park Church in New Orleans. A native of Louisiana, he has held positions as pastor in Louisiana and Mississippi. — (NOBTS Photo by Richard Dodge)

W. Levon Moore, director of missions for Attala Association and chairman of the Development Committee for Central Hills Retreat, spoke recently at the Brotherhood Breakfast meeting at First Church, Noxapater. He gave a slide presentation of the work being done at Central Hills. Gowan Ellis is pastor at Noxapater.

Dennis Dunn was ordained to the ministry recently by the Carmel Church, Monticello, and has been called as pastor of Shiloh Church, Foxworth. An unusual feature of his ordination service was the number of family members involved. His older brother, Leon, pastor at Putnam, Ala., brought the charge to the candidate. His uncle, John Hedgepeth of Terry's Creek, brought the charge to the church. His father, Robert Dunn, pastor of Carmel Church brought the ordination message. His father-in-law, Harold Smith of Summit led the ordination prayer. The Bible, a gift from Carmel, was presented by L. W. Johns, and the certificate of ordination was presented by Guy Mitchell.



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Derrell V. Murphree has been named vice president of Country Place Sales, Inc., and sales manager of Country Place Development, according to Buddy Day, president of Hillcrest properties, the Country Place developer. Murphree will direct a variety of sales and development projects on the 400-acre Country Place property in Rankin County, according to Day. Murphree was formerly youth director at First Church, Jackson.

P. Harris Anderson, Jr., veteran Baptist educator and minister, died at Macon, Ga. following a massive heart attack. He was 67. Anderson retired one year ago as assistant to the president of Mercer University in Macon for denominational relations, a post he had held for 11 years. Born in China, the son of missionary parents, Anderson is survived by a sister, Teresa Anderson, Southern Baptist missionary in the Philippines.

William R. (Nick) Nixon, Jr., has been named public relations director at Louisiana College, Pineville, effective December 15. Nixon, 29 is a native of Carthage, Tenn., and holds a B.S. degree in communications from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

## Jones Crowns Miss 'M' Night

Cindy Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Smith, was crowned as Miss "M" Night Queen for the Church Training of Jones County Association on November 28. Selection was made at the annual "M" Night held at the Second Avenue Church with 1087 registered in attendance. There were 38 churches represented. This was the highest "M" Night attendance in more than ten years.

The selection for Miss "M" Night queen was made on the basis of the percent of Church Training enrollment attending from each church. Cindy is a member of the Grace Church east of Laurel. She is pictured above with her pastor, Mac Parker. First runner-up was Rhonda Freeman, member of the New Hope Church. Second runner-up was Tina Salgado, of Pecan Grove Church.

Attendance awards were given to Pecan Grove Church, Russell Cottingham, pastor, for highest attendance and to New Hope Church, Earl Clark, pastor, for efficiency attendance.

Special services were held for Preschool and Children under the leadership of Dena Davis from Highland Church and Hope Morgan from the Second Avenue Church. The choir from Plainway Church under direction of Mike Daughtrey provided special music, and Levon Moore, director of missions of Attala County Association, brought the inspirational message.

Betty Martin is the associational Church Training director and Maurice Flowers is the director of missions for Jones County Association.



Mac Parker, pastor of Grace Church, Laurel, crowns Cindy Smith as Miss "M" Night for Jones Association. The selection was made on the basis of percent of Church Training enrollment attending from each church.

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Do boys and girls have a special place in your worship service? Is there something designed especially for them in the worship service? Pictured here is the Children's Worship Feature at First Church, Clinton. Pastor Bill Baker is telling a Bible story to the boys and girls seated around him on the platform. Each Sunday morning the boys and girls go to the platform and sit by the pastor as he tells the Bible story. This special feature is three to five minutes in length.

If you would like to begin a Children's Worship Feature in your church you will find suggestions in "Children's Leadership" (Literature Order). These features are dated for each Sunday in the quarter.

Some churches need a separate worship service for children. Helps for a Children's Worship Service are also found in "Children's Leadership."

If you need additional help with Children's Worship Feature or Children's Worship Service, contact the state Sunday School Department, Box 530, Jackson, MS.

## 640 Acres Of Nevada Land Donated To Southwestern

FORT WORTH, Tex. — A section of irrigated Nevada farm land valued at \$324,000 has been donated to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here by John and Vida Cooper of Tucumcari, New Mexico.

The 640 acres, located in Diamond Valley, Eureka County, Nevada, was made through the Baptist Foundation of Texas. Provision of the gift reserves a life estate for the Coopers.

At the end of the life estate, proceeds from the land's sale are expected to become a part of the seminary's permanent endowment, with the establishment of an instructional chair.

John Cooper has been called a master in the grocery business. A veteran

groceryman for 50 years, he pioneered many marketing innovations in the Southwest, such as the "self-service" concept and refrigerated display counters. He saw the business develop from the cracker-barrel to modern processed and packaged foods.

The Coopers have five children. One of their sons, Dan, is a graduate of Southwestern Seminary and pastor of

the First Baptist Church, Shawnee, Oklahoma. He currently serves on the seminary's board of trustees. Benny is owner and manager of Cooper Thriftway board of trustees. Benny is owner and manager of Cooper Thriftway in Canyon, Texas. A daughter, Ann, is married to Wayne Wood who is pastor of the Woodhaven Baptist Church, Garland, Texas. Wood is also a graduate of Southwestern Seminary.

A third son, Joe, is owner and manager of Cooper's Market in Tucumcari. A second daughter, Ruth, is married to D. L. Harguess who is a Church of Christ minister in Friona, Texas.

"The gift is an important part of the seminary's 'Eight by Eighty' campaign," according to John Seelig, vice president for administrative affairs. The campaign is an effort by the Fort Worth seminary to raise \$8 million by 1980 for endowment and capital improvements.

**ATTENTION  
FINANCE COMMITTEES!**  
Are you sending your pastor to the Evangelism Conference?

## Staff Changes

Randy Weeks has joined Center Terrace Church, Canton as the church's first full-time minister of music and youth. A native of Madison, he graduated from William Carey College. He has served at Temple Church in Hattiesburg as youth director and as music and youth director of First Church, Madison.

Zack Winningham is pastor at Center Terrace.

Ron Smith has accepted the call of First Church, Florence to become minister of music and youth. He moved to Florence from First Church, Commerce, Georgia, where he had served in the same position for four years. Born in South Carolina, Smith was reared and educated in Texas.

He is a graduate of Baylor University and Southwestern Seminary. He is married to the former Jackie Edwards of Decatur. They have one daughter.

James Kirkland has been called as pastor of Goodrum Church, Vicksburg. A native of Laurel, Kirkland graduated from William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary. Kirkland goes to Vicksburg from Drew where he was pastor of West Drew Church. He and his wife, the former Patricia Kochie of Vicksburg, have five children.

First Church, Bruce, has called Raymond A. Wilson as pastor. A graduate of Clarke College, and New Orleans Seminary, he is the son of Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Wilson of Newton. Wilson goes to Bruce from Trinity Church, Casa Grande, Arizona, where he had served as pastor since 1973. For two years he was on the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention Executive Board, and this year was vice-president of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention. He is married to the former Shelby Kay Nicholson of Philadelphia, and they have three children.

Ridgecrest Church (Lebanon) has called Dennis Maddox as minister of music and youth. Maddox, a graduate of Clarke College, is a student at William Carey. Odell Tebo is the Ridgecrest pastor.

Faye Nix has been employed by Forest Church as assistant church secretary. She is the wife of the Forest postmaster, Joe Nix.

Ray Moncrief is the new pastor of Martin Bluff Church, Jackson County. He goes there from Lilly Orchard Church.

Bob Wilkerson has resigned as pastor of County Line Church, Attala County.

Mrs. Robert Simpson is the new educational secretary at First Kosciusko. She succeeds Mrs. Wesley Lepard who filled this position for two years.

## Consul General Of Honduras Speaks At First Church, McComb

By Harold Fleming

Rosargentina Pinel, consul general of the Republic of Honduras for five southwestern states, was mission speaker at First Church of McComb December 4. Mrs. Pinel has offices in San Antonio, Texas, where she is an active member of First Baptist

Church. The services were to kick off the Lottie Moon emphasis for foreign missions.

Pinel made her profession of faith in Jesus Christ four years ago. Since that time she has shared her testimony in over 70 churches and at the Southern Baptist Convention. Also she has spoken to several state conventions.

Pinel said that several officials of the Honduras government had accepted Jesus as their Savior as a result of hearing her testimony. She related how that she had been very, very religious all of her life. Yet there was a great void. She was searching, but no one would tell her how to find Jesus. After many years of searching she heard the Gospel and accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior of her life. Since that day she has been telling everyone about Jesus.

Pinel makes three trips a year to Honduras to share the gospel with her people.

The first opportunity that she had to return to Honduras as a Christian was just three months after her conversion. The hurricane Fifi had struck the coast of Honduras. Pinel went in with a bull horn and proclaimed Jesus Christ to the people. Over 3,000 accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. From the time of that experience, life has been a joyous mission for Pinel.

She said that she had made a commitment to God: Honduras for Christ. First Church, McComb has a goal of \$7,600 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.



Left to right: Vera Rhodes, night WMS president; Lillian Bearden, WMU director; Tina Pinel; J. B. Fowler, Jr., pastor; and Louise Quin, morning WMS president.

## Ridgecrest To Present Live Nativity Scene

Ridgecrest Church, Hattiesburg, will present a live nativity scene on Dec. 21, 22, and 23 — Wednesday through Friday before Christmas. The time will be from 6 to 9 p.m. Odell Tebo, pastor, states that the public is invited to come by and view the scene.

"This only is charity, to do all, all that we can," John Donne (1572-1631).

## IT'S MORE THAN JUST AN OFFERING...

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is AN INVESTMENT.

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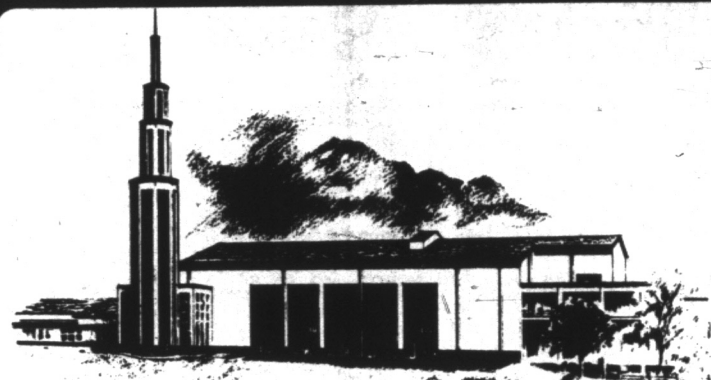
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\$34 Million

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

**A BOLD GOAL FOR  
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Woman's Missionary Union, SBC



The Baptist Sunday School Board and its employees wish for you, your family and your church a Christmas season filled with peace and joy and a New Year rich in God's blessings.

Grady C. Cohen, President

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Two New Programs For Boys

### Pioneer Basketball Tournament



Three regional tournaments—State Finals at Mississippi College March 24-25, 1978

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Both programs will be highlights of the Royal Ambassador Congress at Mississippi College March 24-25, 1978.

Write the Brotherhood Department, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 for brochures describing in detail each of these two new programs and BE PART OF THE ACTION.



# Just For The Record

## Christmas Spirit

By W. Benton Preston, pastor, Midway, Jackson

I read recently of a group of college students who were asked to write down all the things that the word "Christmas" brought to mind. The list included Christmas tree, decorations, Santa Claus, parties, holly, mistletoe, sleigh rides, holiday, carols, etc. Not one of them listed the birth of Christ.

What does Christmas mean to you? Surely, we think of Christmas trees, bright decorations, exchanging gifts, happy children's faces, being home with family and many other things. It is not wrong to think of these things for they are a part of Christmas as we know it. But is this all that it means? Surely, it must hurt the heart of God when He sees how so many celebrate Christmas.



Preston

The mingling masses of humanity  
Rushing to and fro;  
Gaily lighted trees and holly leaves  
And sprigs of mistletoe;  
Songs of sleigh rides and jingle bells,  
Santa and his reindeer;  
Foolish laughing men and bottled  
Christmas cheer;  
People pushing and shoving their way  
Through crowded marts,  
Singing of peace and good will with  
Prejudice in their hearts—  
All this I saw with growing fear  
And agony,  
And thought I heard the one of Bethlehem  
Crying for Calvary.  
Will men even learn to look past self  
And tinsel things,  
And sing the angel's song of the birth  
Of the King of kings?

Christmas is the celebration of the birth of the Saviour. It has no true meaning except to those who see Christ in it and who have Him in their hearts. All the carols, brightly lighted trees, giving and receiving of gifts, feasting and the greetings of friends and loved ones are but empty forms unless one knows Christ as Lord and Saviour. What does Christmas mean to you?



TRINITY CHURCH AT PHILADELPHIA observed homecoming (bottom photo) and a dedication service of a new education and fellowship building, top photo, on October 16. The church was organized in 1963 with 22 charter members. The present enrollment is 240. In the beginning the services were held in a building made of two tool sheds joined together with pine shavings as the floor. Today, the church property includes a sanctuary, a youth building, and the new building which includes seven classrooms, fellowship hall and kitchen. There is a four-bedroom pastor's home.

A former pastor, Bobby Waggoner of Louisville, led the morning worship service. Lunch was served in the new building. Ann Isom and her group from Neshoba County presented a gospel concert. Claude Jenkins, a charter member and deacon, recognized charter members, Kenneth Breland, chairman of deacons, gave a history of the church.

The church recognized the present pastor, Grady Collins, and family on completion of four years of service and gave them a patio set. The deacons also honored the pastor with a cash gift.

Kenneth Breland, Jerry Loden, Bobby Holton, Sudie Harbour and Cookie Williams served on the building committee.

Earl Wood, pastor of Calvary Church, Rock Springs, Wyo., has written Ervin Brown, director of missions, DeSoto County, to say thank you to six DeSoto Baptist men who assisted in a survey and revival in Wyoming Oct. 9-12, 1977. He said, "They did a wonderful job and the survey gives us a lot in the door. They surveyed over 400 houses. Thank God for a group of men like that."

Berea Church (Attala) held dedication services on Nov. 13 for a new education annex.

Yockanookany Church (Attala) has reorganized its Brotherhood.

Sallis Church (Attala) held special dedication services on Sunday, Nov. 13, for a new annex.



Arkabutla Church (Tate) recently held an Acteen Coronation. The four girls pictured were awarded the Queen-Regent-in-service pin. From left: Toni Bundrum, Acteen leader; Anne Furniss; Sonya Chappell; Linda Bundrum; Linda Larson; Mrs. Sidney Furniss, Acteen director.

Acteens of Overt Church presented a coronation program recently. Four girls had completed steps for becoming Queen.

Queen Angie Hodge was escorted by Darryl Dement and was crowned by her mother, Gloria Hodge. Angie's favorite Bible verses, I John 4:7-8 was read by Barbara Young. Her favorite song, "Pass It On," was sung by Darryl Dement.

Queen Shelia Graham was escorted by her father, Howard Graham, and crowned by her mother, Mary Ann Graham. Her favorite verse, John 3:16, was read by Theresa Graham and her favorite song, "For Those Tears I Died," was played by Kathie Birdsong.

Queen Earlene Ezell was escorted by her grandfather, Cecil Ezell, and was crowned by her mother, Shirley Ezell. Her favorite verse, Phil. 4:13, was read by Peggy Ezell. Pam Ezell sang, "How Great Thou Art."

Queen Dianne Bates was escorted by father, Henry Bates, and crowned by her mother, Carol Bates. Her favorite verses, Ephesians 2:8-10, was read by Becky Bates. Ben Birdsong sang, "Jesus Is All The World To Me."

Goodrum Church, Vicksburg, is celebrating Christmas this year with a birthday party for Jesus and a talent show on Dec. 18 at 5 p.m. Church members and others are invited to come to meet the new pastor, James Kirkland and his family.

The annual Lebanon Baptist Association's Christmas Party for the residents of Green Forrest Convalescent Home is to be Dec. 20. Gifts will be presented to 100 persons.

First Church, Pontotoc is sharing in a ministry to international students at Ole Miss by providing 23 Christmas boxes. There are 362 international students on the university campus, representing 44 countries. Christmas boxes are being prepared for each of these students. Each box will have fruit and candies with scripture and a seasonal message. Joyce Fitts is the BSU mission leader at Ole Miss.

## Schedule For Pastors Begins In School Of Christian Training

A special two-day per week class schedule for pastors will begin on January 16 in the School of Christian Training at New Orleans Seminary. Fred B. Moseley, director of the school has announced.

This program is designed to enable a pastor with at least a high school education to complete seminary training toward a Diploma in Pastoral Ministry and at the same time continue his pastoral duties on his church field without interruption. Such a schedule will allow pastors to drive to New Orleans on Monday mornings and return home on Wednesday afternoons.

Courses that will be offered in this special schedule beginning in January are: Preaching, Introduction to Old Testament Interpretation, and Christian Theology. Dr. Joe H. Cothen will teach the basic course in Preaching (3:00-5:00) Monday and Tuesday afternoons. Charles Graham will teach the Old Testament course (7:00-9:00) Monday and Tuesday evenings. Joe Nesom will teach Christian Theology (8:00-10:00) Tuesday and Wednesday mornings.

Pastors who are interested in knowing more about this program are urged to write to Moseley at the New Orleans

Seminary for further information.

### Count the Cost

"For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?" (Luke 14:28) God expects us to be good business people, to plan to live within our means, to save for the future. Let's think seriously on the practical teachings of these words of wisdom from our God. — Lena Scott Price

## Sunday School Lesson: Life and Work For December 18

# The Resurrection And The Life

By Bill Duncan, Long Beach, First John 11

During the month of December, we are studying passages of scripture that answer the question, "Who is Jesus?" John uses both signs and discourses to answer the question. From the study of John we have learned much to help us tell others who Jesus is.



Duncan

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life." This is a message of Christian hope from God. The God of faith and love brings hope to everyone who believes on Him. Nothing is more certain than death. But there is hope when death comes. A high school teacher expressed this hope when he and his wife lost their beautiful 13-year-old daughter from a brain tumor. "My wife and I are so happy to have had her for 13 years. She was a genuine Christian girl, and a joy to all who knew her. Her mother and I are happy that she is waiting for us in heaven." The Christian supreme hope is that of spending eternity with Christ.

The occasion for Jesus' proclamation was the raising of Lazarus from the dead. This sign was witnessed by many witnesses. Thus it became the event that led to His death. By this sign Jesus illustrated that He was the resurrection and the life.

It seems that no one is immune to the ravages of sickness and death. Yet a

noted psychoanalyst has said that man's subconscious cries out, "I will not die!" Jesus' friends wanted Jesus to be with them and to help them. The short verse "Jesus wept" tells us some profound truths about God. God cared so much when one man died, that Jesus wept. God had entered into human events in a personal way.

When Martha met Jesus, she expressed both her faith and her bitterness. "If you had been here my brother would not have died." Jesus told her, "Thy brother shall rise again." Martha believed Jesus was referring to the resurrection on the last day. This was a strong belief among the Jews of Jesus' day. However, Jesus intended to restore Lazarus to his sisters in this life, alive and in the flesh.

God's honor was not at stake whether Lazarus remained in the tomb or came forth from it. Whether one lives or dies, all that matters is that Jesus, who is God, is the resurrection and the life. He takes care of those who die, and they are in perfect hands. He takes care of those who go on living for a while, because eternal life is a present experience, and they will never die.

The answer to suffering and death is not to be found in some deep argument that might satisfy a critical thinker; it is to be found in Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life.

John narrated that Lazarus' resurrection was in the Father's answer to Jesus' prayer. What Jesus did He did in the name and power of the Father.

This is the real answer to all our

problems: the power of God as Christ has made Him known. And that does not consist of what God does but that God does. Lazarus represents all of us. We are bound hand and foot in the grave clothes of our mortality. Our marriages, families, industrial life, and our politics stink of the grave. As we face this decade, we can only believe in Him who says, "I am the resurrection and the life." Jesus has the power to break the chains of death and set us free. He can give us new life.

The raising of Lazarus provoked contrary reactions among men. The rain falls: one man thanks God for the rain; another curses the weather. The

same is true with the words of God. Reverence and gratitude versus jealousy and hostility. What a contrast!

God never ceases to work in the world through Jesus Christ. What He has done, continues to do, and promises yet to do is beyond man's ability and understanding: He brings life out of death. In this enterprise, we may contribute in many ways to the devouring forces of death, as did the enemies of Jesus. Or, we may throw the weight of our faith and strength on the side of Him who the resurrection and the life as did the friends of Jesus.

## Sunday School Lesson: International For December 18

# God's Call To Right Living

By W. J. Fallis  
Micah 1-3:6; 1 to 7:7

During this quarter on "Old Testament Book Studies" we will deal with three prophets in five lessons: Micah, Jonah, and Daniel.

Although most people think first of prediction when "prophet" is mentioned, this Hebrew spokesman was better known in his own time for declaring God's message.

He reminded the people of what God had done for them, he pointed out their failures and sins, and he promised forgiveness or judgment, depending on their response. Some prophets, like Nathan and Elijah, left no written message. But the words of others comprise a major section of the Old Testament. They reveal the struggle of the children of Israel in being both religious and ethical. The prophets always called for right living.

The Lesson Explained  
Against Scheming Land Robbers (2:1-2)

Micah's first target were the land robbers, probably the powerful moneylenders in the city who grew fat on the misfortune of the small farmers. They may have lost a crop to a marauding army one year and another

to a drouth the next. They had borrowed for seed and kept; then they put up the farm to cover the next loan. Soon there was nothing left.

Micah sympathized with those small householders and declared judgment against the clever people who made their evil plans at night. When morning came they worked their plan, probably by the letter of the law. If that did not work, there were other ways to make the small farmer give up his land. He could be scared, tricked, or forced, especially if the judges did not care what happened. Micah condemned this oppression which robbed a man of his means of support and of his inheritance from his father.

Against Selfish Leaders (3:9-12)

All of chapter 3 is a judgment against the official leaders of the people. The very rulers who should know the meaning of justice really "hate the good, and love the evil" (v.2). Even the prophets will say whatever is desired by the man who gives them something to eat (v.5).

In verse 9 Micah denounced the leaders of the nation who abhor justice and deliberately prevented fair treatment. Their kind of community was being built on violence and evil. Then Micah pointed to three kinds of leaders who were interested only in the money they could make. The judges could be bribed. The priests let money influence their statements. The

prophets reserved their divining skills for those with cash. All the time, Micah said, they claimed to depend on the Lord and probably used his name frequently. Thus they felt no guilt. But Micah declared God's judgment. Because of them, Jerusalem would be destroyed, would become a plowed field. Handsome city buildings would "become a heap of ruins" (RSV), and the Temple site a wooded hillock.

Right Living Above Sacrifice (6:6-8)

Verses 6-7 are obviously by some speaker other than Micah; they need quotation marks to show that they represent the view of another. Speaking as one, the people are complaining about how hard it is to please God. Verse 6 describes basic worship. If that is not adequate, the people say, should they multiply their sacrifices by the thousands? or should they resort to human sacrifice?

Patience, Micah responds: the Lord has already made it clear what he expects from them. Not ostentatious sacrifice but right living. Practice justice in righting wrongs, in living by God's law, and in being honest and fair with one's neighbor. Practice active goodwill in dealing with all people. Accepting the daily privilege of God's fellowship without arrogance or selfishness. Living by this three-part pattern shows greater devotion to God than elaborate rituals and costly religious facilities.

## Off The Record

The pert eight-year-old was being punished and sat in the corner of the dining room at a table set especially for her. The rest of the family paid her little attention during her term of penitence, but they couldn't ignore her prayer before settling down to the meal. "I thank thee, Lord," she was heard to say, "for preparing a table before me in the presence of mine enemies."

—First Baptist Reminder, Pascagoula

One beautiful Sunday morning, a Baptist preacher announced to his congregation: "Brethren, I have three sermons—a \$100 one that lasts five minutes, a \$50 sermon that lasts 15 minutes, and a \$10 sermon that lasts an hour. We'll now have our morning offering to decide which one I deliver."

While rummaging through his attic, a man found a shoe repair ticket that was nine years old. Figuring he had nothing to lose, he went to the shop and presented the ticket. After a search of 10 minutes, the proprietor returned. "Did you find the shoes?" asked the man.

"Yes," replied the repairman. "They will be ready Tuesday."

Wife to husband: "Shall we watch the ten-to-six news and get indigestion or wait for the ten o'clock and have insomnia?"

## Bar To Paid Converts Considered In Israel

JERUSALEM (RNS) — The legislative committee of the Israeli Knesset (Parliament) has endorsed a bill which would make it a criminal offense to offer material inducements for conversion to another religion.

Since only two of the 11-member legislative committee voted against the bill and another abstained, eventual passage of the bill — which proposes a five-year prison sentence for offering an inducement to conversion and three years for accepting the inducement — is virtually assured.

Rabbi Abramowitz said he originally intended the prohibition of all missionary activities in his bill, but had been forced to compromise after his colleagues stressed that a democratic state could not forbid the dissemination of religious materials or religious meetings.

Legislative committee chairman, David Glass of the Religious National Party emphasized that the proposed bill, if passed into law, would not jeopardize the traditional privileges of the Christian communities in the state of Israel.



SILLOAM HOME

SILLOAM CHURCH, CLAY COUNTY, has completed a new pastorage. The house stands on the crest of the seven-acre church property, overlooking a lake. The three-bedroom colonial home has 2010 square feet of floor space, including two baths, paneled den and kitchen, and large living and dining area. It has a corner fireplace, a built-in china cabinet in the dining room, and a two-car carport. Living room drapery and furniture were provided by the church. A grandmother clock was donated by one of the members. Pictured on the porch are Walter Frederick, pastor; R. P. Barkemeyer, chairman of the Building Committee; and Paul Vickers, chairman of the Steering Committee.